Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, February 11, 2016 | Read by more than 68,000 people | Price when sold 60p

Discount foodstore to be part of town's 12-acre retail park

THIS latest image shows how a major retail complex set to be built on a former foundry site in Oldbury will look. A row of modern retail units with ample parking spaces will form the complex which is set to rival other centres in the Black Country.

Eleven shops – including a discount foodstore – will be built on the 12-acre site in Bromford Road if the proposal, headed by the owners of Grand Central and the Bullring, gets the go-ahead.

Although it will be built in the heart of Oldbury, behind the Sandwell Council offices near Oldbury Ringway, it has the style of a modern out-of-town complex, such as Wolverhampton's Bentley Bridge Retail Park.

The long overdue arrival of concrete plans has been met with excitement in the town. A retail park has long been mooted in Oldbury – plans were first revealed as far back as the last century – but suggestions it could be resurrected over the years have been met with scepticism, such has been the number of false dawns.

The site has long been left empty but, being a short distance from Sandwell and Dudley train station, retail giant Hammerson has seen an opportunity.

A design and access statement says: "The site, now vacant, was previously the home of Hunt Brothers Griffin Foundry which was demolished in 2003 to make way for a larger retail and leisure development that didn't come to fruition."

Permission was initially granted for the shopping centre in November 2004.

The proposed retail park over 12 acres

WATSON'S FURY AT HALL SCHEME

Report by Richard Guttridge

THE deputy leader of the Labour Party has criticised developers who want to bring Great Barr Hall back into use after lying empty for decades and build homes.

West Bromwich East MP Tom Watson said BCG Lakes was over-complicating the situation by compiling a staggering 2,500-page dossier which is set to put the heads of planning bosses in a spin.

The historic hall will be transformed into a hotel and conference centre under the plans, while 59 homes will be built in its grounds, to the anger of campaigners who fear greenbelt land being ruined.

Great Barr Hall

The long-running saga goes back to October 2013, when plans were first lodged. The application is currently on hold while Walsall Council examines the bid.

A frustrated Mr Watson said: "The applicant has recently resubmitted 456 additional documents to Walsall Council. Working with local residents we estimate this consists of 2,500 sheets of information, making this one of the largest planning applications for years.

"Assuming it takes an average of five minutes to study each sheet, it would take over 200 hours to read through all these documents. I've never seen anything like it in all my time as an MP."

Valerie Vaz, MP for Walsall South, who is also against the application, has attempted to get the hall's listed status scrapped in the belief that if there is no longer any historic value in the building the developer's case would collapse.

She said: "Valuable greenbelt and listed parkland will be lost if this application goes ahead."

However, builders who want to create the luxury housing estate in the grounds of the 18th century hall insist they would need the cash from the development to pay for the former mansion's restoration.

They say the building is so dilapidated after three decades of neglect that it would take millions of pounds to turn it into a hotel and conference centre.

SAFETY IN MIND FOR YOUNGSTERS AT LIBRARY

St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School pupils with Councillor Simon Hackett, children's services chief

Children's resource launched

A NEW resource has been launched in Sandwell to help keep children safe as part of the Children's safety in the Home scheme.

Subjects range from dangerous dogs, sun and water safety to eating harmful poisons (liquid-tabs) and choking. Councillor Simon Hackett, cabinet member for children's services went to the launch at Oldbury Library last Wednesday.

The new programme – based on Dog, Duck and Cat – has been well-received in local children centres and libraries and it is hoped to roll this programme out further across Sandwell.

Fantastic

The Home Safety Scheme, featuring Prickles the hedgehog, has become a favourite in local schools and is expected to be popular with more children across Sandwell.

Councillor Hackett said: "This is a fantastic scheme and as a parent of a young child I am aware of how important it is to keep children safe in the home."

"The performance was very enjoyable and I know many other young children will benefit from the programme and reading the books."

POLICE

Two arrested over shop owner murder

A MAN and a woman have been arrested on suspicion of murdering Smethwick music shop owner Tanveer Iqbal, whose body was found in his car boot.

A 36-year-old woman and a 43-year-old man were arrested at an address in Birmingham by detectives on Monday night.

Mr Iqbal, 33, was found in the boot of his Renault Clio in Portland Road, Edgbaston, on February 1. Officers have yet to reveal how Mr Iqbal died. Det Insp Paul Joyce, said: "I am particularly keen to speak to anyone who may have seen Mr Iqbal between closing his shop, Hi-Tech Music on Sunday, January 31."

● Tributes – Page 3

REDEVELOPMENT

Former office site may fetch £200k

A FORMER office building in Oldbury is set to go under the hammer later this month and could sell for £200,000.

A development opportunity is up for grabs at Global House in Popes Lane.

The building will be up for auction at Villa Park on February 25 and carries a guide price of between £175,000 and £200,000. It has fallen into a state of disrepair and chartered surveyors CP Bigwood said it would be in need of major refurbishment but offers an opportunity for conversion.

ADVERTISING

M-way hoarding plan thrown out

A BATTLE to build a huge digital advertising hoarding overlooking the M5 in Oldbury has been lost after an appeal against its rejection was dismissed.

The structure had been earmarked for land off Ashes Road close to junction two of the motorway for the Birchley Island.

Planning bosses at Sandwell Council turned down the scheme a year ago and a subsequent appeal against the decision has proved to be unsuccessful.

There were concerns the billboard would distract motorists close to the junction while it was also thought the hoarding would be too close to nearby flats.

INSIDE

BGT STAR GOES BACK TO SCHOOL

PAGE 4

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CONTENTS

RHODES	4
LETTERS	7
AREA FOCUS	12, 14
FAST TICKET	17
TV	20
PROPERTY	25
MOTORING	45
SPORT	47-48

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Pride awards call for heroes' names

Julia Farnsworth

THE organisers of the Pride of Tipton awards say they are bigger and better this year, with nominations now open. Each year the area recognises outstanding contributions made by people, whether it is by raising money for charity, being a good neighbour, exceptional teaching or working with youngsters.

One of last year's winners, Karl Hinett, a former soldier in Iraq, raised thousands of pounds for good causes by running 139 marathons, after suffering 37 per cent burns to his body and spending five years undergoing operations for his injuries caused by a bomb.

RSA Academy, Sandwell Local Tipton office, Tipton Police and the Pride of Tipton Community Group have teamed up for the awards and are now looking for nominations for this year's event, which will be held on Wednesday May 11 at The RSA Academy, in Bilston Road.

Rachael Baker, Safeguarding and early help co-ordinator at the academy, said: "It is a very prestigious event, with the winners receiving their awards in the presence of the Mayor and other honoured guests.

Another of last year's winners, Julia Farnsworth was honoured after retiring from her role as a maths teacher at RSA Academy after an incredible 36 years. "I've taught parents and grandparents of some of the current children and that's great. It's a lovely community."

Closing date for the nominations is Friday April 8 at 5pm, and winners will be announced shortly afterwards. Nominations can be made by emailing POT@rsaacademy.org or by collecting and returning a nomination form from Reception at the RSA Academy or Reception at Sandwell Local Tipton.

Leisure services' future is thrown into doubt

THE future of Sandwell Leisure Trust continuing to run services in the borough has been plunged into doubt after it emerged the trust is yet to agree new business terms with the council.

However, council leader Darren Cooper is keen to emphasise that negotiations are still ongoing, even though a new business case put forward by the trust was not accepted.

A petition launched by Sandwell Joint Trade Unions has seen over 1,000 signatures added to it already by leisure centre staff and users who want to see all of the borough's leisure services continue to be run bythe trust.

The trust has been maintaining nine leisure centres and a golf course for an annual fee from Sandwell Council for 12 years, and during that time has been recognised by a number of industry award bodies.

Councillor Cooper said: "Of course we are doing our best to ensure leisure services in the borough will continue to be maintained by Sandwell Leisure Trust, but under the financial restraints the council are under, we as of yet haven't been able to agree terms.

Interests

"Talks are ongoing with Sandwell Leisure Trust and I would like to stress the interests of the borough and their leisure centres is our primary focus. The issue will be discussed at the next cabinet meeting on February 24. If we fail to agree terms with them, then unfortunately we might have to look elsewhere to different independent companies who can continue to maintain our leisure centres.

"I understand people's concern, but the future of leisure centres in the borough is a positive one, you only have to look at the work we've done over the last few years to see that. But I would like to stress, a decision like this is some way off, and we will continue to discuss with Sandwell Leisure Trust the terms and plans going forward."

The petition urges Sandwell councillors to 'recognise the great service provided by staff at Sandwell Leisure Trust and they do all they can to ensure the service continues to be operated by this award winning organisation.'

900 make Connexions at event

Erroll Blackwood, Markus Facey-Dell, Mayor, Councillor Barbara Price and her consort Councillor Bob Price

MORE than 900 people attended a special careers fair at Sandwell College's Central Sixth campus in West Bromwich.

Sandwell Connexions held the seventh annual New Year, New Start 2016 apprenticeship, education, training and jobs fair.

More than 40 exhibitors showcased a diverse range of opportunities at varying levels of entry. There were colleges, Wolverhampton University, apprenticeship and training providers and experts from professions such as law and accountancy. There were also representatives from a range of employers from across the technology, manufacturing and service sectors, with exhibits set up to motivate and inspire young people to explore the opportunities open to them.

In addition, Connexions personal advisers were on hand to provide impartial careers advice, guidance, support and information. The event was launched by the Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Barbara Price, and Matthew Sampson, Sandwell Council's director of children's services.

Councillor Simon Hackett also attended. He said: "It was a pleasure to see so many young people seeking out information which could help them."

Any young person who could not attend on the day can call Sandwell Connexions on 0121 569 2955 to speak to a personal adviser or drop in at the One Stop Shop at the Council House, Oldbury.

Meerkats and more on offer at Oak House

MEERKATS, Oreo the raccoon and cosy craft sessions are on offer to keep the kids entertained over half-term at Sandwell's Oak House Museum.

The historic house and Barns Visitor Centre, in West Bromwich, is holding an All Creatures Great and Small day on Tuesday February 16 from 11-3pm.

The fun costs £4 per child and is suitable for ages three and up giving children the chance to make the most of a hands-on encounter with small animals as well as a craft session. Booking is essential on 0121 533 0759.

Creative Craft Wednesday on February 17, from 11am-3pm, gets children to let their imagination run wild and create their favourite animal or mythical creature.

On Thaw-out Thursday the house is open for a cosy craft day with lots of things to make and do from bird gliders to dinosaur money boxes. Join staff for quizzes, puzzles and trails from 11am-3pm on February 18.

This is the beginning of an exciting 2016 season of events and activities which will run until December. Visitors can find out more at www.sandwell.gov.uk/museumevents

Apart from these half-term activities the house is currently closed for re-display, maintenance and planning and will reopen to the public for the summer season on Easter Sunday, March 27, 2pm-5pm. Jessica Hoyle, visitors services officer at the museum said: "We are hoping people continue to enjoy the site in the coming year."

Puffing Billy pub to stay shut

A PUB which had its licence revoked weeks after a 15-year-old boy was stabbed to death in a street outside will stay shut after its owners ran out of time to lodge an appeal.

The Puffing Billy, in Smethwick, was closed by police following the stabbing of Jamar Walker on December 20.

A 17-year-old – who has been charged with murder – told police he had been at the pub an hour earlier.

Its bosses were then brought before a council licensing panel last month where a decision to revoke the licence was made.

Other concerns, including loud noise and music coming from the pub, in Raglan Road, were taken into consideration.

Police licensing officers confirmed the decision had not been appealed.

Trains delayed after lorry crash

TRAINS were delayed after a lorry hit a bridge in Cradley Heath. Six services were affected after the bridge was struck in Corngreaves Road on Monday at around midday. Trains were quickly up and running again with passengers only held up by around 28 minutes.

Warning on bins filled with wrong waste items

RECYCLING bins in Sandwell will be left uncollected if people put the wrong items in them, council bosses have warned.

Around 20 per cent of waste currently collected in blue-lid bins isn't suitable for recycling. It can then be rejected by waste firms, leaving Sandwell and its taxpayers to foot costs of more than £1 million a year.

Letters have been sent to 115,000 households in the borough reminding residents which items can and cannot be recycled using their blue-lid bin. It follows a successful pilot scheme in November of 1,500 homes and resulted in levels of unsuitable recycling items dropping from 18 per cent to just two per cent.

Councillor Maria Crompton, cabinet member for highways and environment, said: "We would really like to thank everyone who's helping recycle more of the borough's waste.

"Some people are still putting some wrong items of waste in their recycling bins, which means entire lorry loads can be rejected at a time.

"We have held off taking this kind of action, but I'm afraid we can't wait any longer. We don't want to leave bins unemptied but we need people to use their recycling service correctly."

Uncollected bins will be identified by a sticker which will highlight the non-recyclable items. The bin will then be collected the following week once the items have been removed.

Residents can check what items can and cannot be recycled by visiting www.sandwell.gov.uk/recycling

Tonight's the night for Rod

ROD Stewart brings his 'From Gasoline Alley to Another Country Hits 2016' arena tour to the Barclaycard Arena later this year.

It will see him perform his greatest hits from 1970 to 2016, such as Maggie May, I Don't Want To Talk About It and Tonight's The Night.

Tickets are now on sale at www.theticketfactory.com. Demand for tickets is as strong as ever and another night has been added as well as December 2, he will be gracing the Birmingham stage on December 3.

Rod is one of the best-selling artists in the history of recorded music, with over 200 million records sold worldwide. He has garnered two inductions into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and won countless awards.

Spring fair at Ruskin centre

A GLASS centre in Stourbridge holds a spring fair later this month. The event at the Ruskin Glass Centre in Wollaston Road runs from 10am to 4pm on February 27. The centre has invited 10 guest artists to take part.

Tributes to shop owner found dead in car

Tanveer Iqbal, found dead in his car

TRIBUTES have been paid to a Smethwick shop owner discovered dead in the boot of his own car, after a murder investigation was launched.

Tanveer Iqbal, who ran the Hi-Tech Music shop in Shireland Road, was found in the boot of his Renault Clio in Edgbaston, Birmingham on Monday – just two days after he celebrated his 33rd birthday.

Flowers have been laid at the music store, which Mr Iqbal ran alongside his three older brothers. Black Country Chamber of Commerce president Ninder Johal knew Mr Iqbal and his family through his own musical endeavours. Mr Johal said he was 'absolutely shocked' to hear of Mr Iqbal's death. "The reason why this is such a shock was Tanveer was the happiest guy you'd ever meet, he had a permanent smile on his face. I congratulated him on Saturday for his birthday and didn't realise that would be the last time I'd communicate with him."

Mr Johal said the circumstances surrounding Mr Iqbal's death were 'a big puzzle'.Mr Iqbal, who lived in Edgbaston, was reported missing at around midday on Monday after not being seen since closing his shop on Sunday. Police said enquiries led officers to nearby Portland Road, where Mr Iqbal's body was found in the boot just before 2pm on Monday.

Tributes have also been paid to the popular father-of-two online. Bilal Noshahi Soharwardi wrote on Facebook: "He was such a lovely person who shall truly be missed."

Well-wishers gathered at the Corbett Street Mosque in Smethwick to offer their prayers. Police can be contacted on 101 or information passed to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Former landlady 'driven by greed' in £26k claims

A FORMER pub landlady who swindled the public out of £26,000, claiming she couldn't wash and dress herself despite being caught on CCTV pulling pints, was motivated by 'pure greed', a court heard.

Elaine Gordon has escaped an immediate jail term after being caught loading her car with heavy stock and pouring ale from heavy cask pumps while also claiming state disability benefits.

Elaine Gordon

The 59-year-old fraudster was filmed by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) at Marston's pub Prince of Wales in Tipton Road, Dudley, at the nearby Riddins Tavern and at Makro wholesalers in Halesowen.

She started dishonestly claiming in December 2009, when she was running The Boat Inn in Cradley Heath, and carried it on until 2014, when she was filmed pouring 50 pints in an hour during a televised World Cup match.

She claimed she had Raynaud's Disease, arthritis and varicose veins, and needed care seven days a week to help with washing herself, cooking, dressing and using the toilet.

After Gordon hobbled into the dock using a walking stick, prosecutor Richard Davenport told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "She filled in a claim form in 2001 in which she stated she was unable to work and virtually unable to walk. Her employment shouldn't have any bearing on her benefits, as long as the duties she carries out are compliant with her claim."

Gordon, of Madehurst Road, Birmingham, had previously admitted to failing to notify the authorities of a change in circumstances at Dudley Magistrates Court.

Defence barrister John Evans said: "Her medication played a big part in her improvement. She isn't taking it any more and has since stopped working. She has had to rely on family for money."

Judge Ciaran Rankin said: "It is quite clear to me that you knew exactly what you were doing, and you were motivated by pure greed."

She was sentenced to eight months' jail, suspended for two years, and given a 12 month supervision order.

Coffee shop brews up for YMCA

From left, Vicki Dunn – store manager, Joanne Wilson, Paul Stavlo and Micah Deegan, duty managers

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT coffee shop has opened creating jobs in West Bromwich as part of a charity's £9.5 million development. Cielo Coffee House has opened at the transformed YMCA Western Gateway centre, in Carters Green.

It is the first outlet for the chain in the West Midlands which has five other shops in Yorkshire. The move has created four jobs and other chances to get volunteer experience. It will be open seven days a week, serving speciality coffee and cakes.

Nick Castle, managing director of Cielo Coffee said: "This is the first coffee house we have opened in the West Midlands. It is a fantastic opportunity and we hope to make a positive difference to the local community.

He added: "We are open to the public and we give all our profits away to support the great work of the YMCA."For us it is really important to do business that benefits the community and to provide a space to reduce loneliness."

Andy Watson, executive head of enterprise for YMCA Black Country added: "It has been long awaited and it's great that they are finally here and able to serve great coffee and food to the local community and beyond."

Building work by Jessup Brothers at Western Gateway, was completed last month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rider treated following crash

A MOTORCYCLIST was taken to hospital after a crash which shut a main road between Oldbury and Dudley. Emergency services were called to Dudley Road, in Tividale, at around 7am on Friday following the smash.

A motorcycle had collided with the trailer of a lorry outside Tipton Community Primary School. The rider, a man aged in his 40s, suffered a leg and possible abdominal injury.

He was taken by paramedics to Russells Hall Hospital for further treatment. Fire crews from Oldbury and Tipton stations attended.

Ditch gadgets for toys of old

CHILDREN can ditch their 21st century gadgets and have a go at making old-fashioned toys at Cradley Heath's Haden Hill House Museum.

The half-term workshop called Toys That Grandma Used To Make will take place on February 16. Sessions cost £2 and run from 11am until 3pm.

The following day, visitors can open an old-fashioned toy cupboard, use their imagination and play with toys from the past as well as take part in quizzes. On February 18, Ron Popple will be performing magic tricks and balloon modelling from 11am-3pm.

Manor magic over half term

MOVIES, storytelling and crafts are lined up in West Bromwich over February half term. The Manor House Museum is putting on food tasting as well as craft making and ghoulish tales with Sandwell Storyplayers on February 15 from 11am-3pm.

The Goosebumps Movie Club is on Tuesday 16 February from 12-3pm and admission is free. Films are rated PG. There's different storytelling and new crafts on Wednesday 17 February from 11am- 3pm.

Labour club to go back up for auction

CRADLEY Heath Labour Club which closed last August after more than 90 years is to go back up for auction after previously failing to sell.

The Graingers Lane venue shut suddenly after the committee in charge revealed they could no longer afford to keep it running. It will go under the hammer in a sale being held at Aston Villa Football Club on February 25.

Its guide price has come down from £180,000 to between £125,000 and £150,000.

Shop's slice of success

A CAKE shop in Wolverhampton has been shortlisted in a national competition.

AB Cakes in Snow Hill, launched 15 years ago, is a finalist in the Asian Wedding Cake Of The Year. The event is believed to be the only one of its kind in the UK.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IF you believe some reports, viewers were shocked at the naked soldiers in the lake-bathing scene in War & Peace (BBC1). I suspect the biggest shock was the effect of freezing cold water on the male equipment. It can seriously shrivel your tolstoys.

I RAISED this question a few days ago: how many of today's 21-year-old graduates could pass the 11-plus? A reader obligingly digs out an 11-plus maths paper from the 1950s with the question: "Subtract two-thirds of 834 from 23 times 185". Moving swiftly on . . . .

WRITER Jane Shilling laments the rise of IKEA-type minimalism and the demise of brown furniture like her sturdy old wardrobe with labels for "costumes" and "blouses." I was suddenly reminded of the brown wardrobe my parents bought when I was about six. The labelled compartments included one marked "sundries." For more years than I feel comfortable to admit, I assumed these were clothes that could be dried in the sun.

ANYONE surprised at the news that some of Britain's biggest companies, including Sainsbury's, Travis Perkins and the Football Association, have shared £5 million of taxpayers' money in order to install energy-saving bulbs? Me neither. In the same way, those big, flashy electric 4x4 vehicles, eagerly snapped up by the wealthy, are subsidised by taxpayers. As always, it's the rich wot gets the pleasure and the poor wot gets the blame.

TERRY Wogan, the most famous Irishman in Britain, was broadcasting throughout the 30 years of the so-called Troubles when bombs and bullets claimed 3,000 lives. When things got really nasty, notably after the 1974 Birmingham Pub Bombings, his gentle Irish accent was a precious daily reminder of the inseparable ties and the great affection between two close and tolerant nations. Wogan never mentioned the Troubles on air but when it was all over, he joked about receiving "the odd death threat" and explained: "Things being done in the name of Irish freedom were not being done by me or anyone I knew."

TRANSPORT for London (TfL) has issued its annual tally of lost property left behind on trains and buses. Umbrellas, wallets, laptops and other small things are among the 300,000 items. The real puzzle is finding several drum kits. How does anyone who boards a bus carrying a bass drum, snare drum, pedal, cymbal and a pair of tom-toms manage to leave without them? And what of his fellow travellers? As the drummer prepares to step off, does no-one say: "Oi, mate! Isn't that your drum kit?" It is all very puzzling.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Hundreds in protest at embassy

The protesters seen outside the Portuguese Embassy

HUNDREDS of people descended on the Portuguese Embassy in London in support of Black Country terror suspect Paramjeet Singh Saini – as his family met with the country's ambassador.

Father-of-four Mr Saini is currently behind bars in Portugal waiting to see if he will face an extradition hearing. Indian authorities have accused him of being involved in the killing of a prominent Sikh politician and a bombing campaign in the country and want him to return there to face charges.

However, his arrest and detention while on a family holiday in the Algarve has drawn a furious response from UK politicians, including Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, as he has been granted asylum seeker status in this country. Members of his family met with the Portuguese ambassador on Friday who promised them any hearing would be transparent.

Upkar Singh, of the Kesri Lehar activist group, said: "We successfully got Paramjeet Singh's family to meet with the Portuguese Ambassador and discuss their position on the situation. The outcome of this was that the Portuguese authorities will now demand every document related to the previous case lodged against Paramjeet Singh in Britain by India. These will be compared to the current case being brought against him. This will make everything transparent and have a bearing on the final Portuguese decision."

'Credible threat' call by head after bomb hoaxes

By David Cosgrove

A SCHOOL in Sandwell plagued by bomb hoaxes will only evacuate in future if police confirm there is a 'credible' threat.

Oldbury Academy has been evacuated four times during the past three weeks.

Acting headteacher Philip Shackleton said he will now only close his school if there is reason to believe the students and staff are in danger. He said this was the best way to both ensure everyone was safe and minimise the disruption to lessons.

Mr Shackleton said the policy had always been to shut the school in Pound Road and send pupils home. But now any threats received will be immediately reported to police and bosses will await further information before evacuating.

Parents were informed of the new rules, which followed guidance from police, at a meeting and the acting headteacher said they had been supportive. Mr Shackleton said: "The first priority is to make sure the children and staff are safe and then to minimise the disruption to lessons."

Procedures

"If we think the threat is credible we will of course evacuate," he said, adding: "We're just not making that immediate decision to close the school."

Oldbury Academy already had a number of procedures in place to monitor security including 'locking down' the school every night and senior staff carrying out 'a complete sweep of the school' to check for anything suspicious each morning.

The Salvation Army and Barlow Homes Community Centre, both in Pound Road, and The Royal British Legion club in Windsor Road, have offered to help should the school need to be evacuated.

"I would like to thank our local community. All of these community centres have offered their venues for our students to go to," said Mr Shackleton.

The academy has been one of the institutions worst affected by the hoaxes, having been threatened four times. The school on Pound Road was first targeted on January 19 when it was one of four schools that closed for the day.

David books in for visit to school

Comedian David Walliams and MP Tom Watson at Hall Green Primary School in West Bromwich

IT was laughs-a-plenty as funnyman David Walliams made a surprise visit to a school in the Black Country.

Year six pupils at Hall Green Primary School in West Bromwich were treated to a question and answer session with the Britain's Got Talent judge as he took time out of his busy schedule currently auditioning hopefuls in Birmingham. He also read pupils an extract from his new children's book – Grandpa's Great Escape.

The 44-year-old made his appearance following the morning assembly alongside Deputy Leader of the Labour Party and West Bromwich East MP, Tom Watson. Alison Gilbert, deputy head at the Hall Green Road school, said: "It was a fantastic learning experience for them as it's not everyone they get the chance to meet a real author and television personality. He was fantastic with the children and took time to answer all of their questions as well as sign copies of his book for our year six pupils. Tom did a short interview and introduction with David first then he read from his latest book and did a short question and answer session with the children after."

Mrs Gilbert explained how the children were excited to ask him about the characters in his books.

She added: "They asked him if any of the characters were based on real life people and how he had got into writing. It was great that they were really interested in him as an author and not just a celebrity from Britain's Got Talent. He was incredibly down to earth and even posed with staff for pictures afterwards."

Write way to recall the war in latest competition

A HISTORY society is holding a writing competition as part of their West Bromwich at War project, focusing on the Second World War's impact on the town.

West Bromwich Local History Society, on Temple Meadows Road, are inviting the young people of Sandwell, from ages 10 to 13 and 14 to 18, to submit a short piece of writing, in association with West Bromwich Youth Council. The overall winning entry will be awarded £150, the second £100, with two prizes in the 10 to13 category of £75. Winning entries will be featured in the new publication and on a dedicated website the society is producing in July.

Member of the society, Brian Wilkes, said: "We are really looking forward to see what young people will produce. The entry can be in any literary form. It can be a fictional piece, a poem, or a more journalistic piece based on historical research or interviews. It could be a story from your family history you'd like to share or an interpretation of a photograph from the time."

Entries should be no more than 2000 words; if it is a poem, no longer than 28 lines. All the entries will be judged on which are the most original, interesting, entertaining, as well as historically relevant.

The rules of the competition can be downloaded from www.laundryline.co.uk/news/writing-competition-for-young-people/

The deadline for entries is Friday April 8.

Group to focus on suicide issue

A BLACK Country charity will be joining forces with a group that raises awareness surrounding suicide.

The Kaleidoscope Plus Group (KPG), from West Bromwich, will be formally announcing their partnership with SOS (Silence Of Suicide).

The initiative aims to facilitate open discourse and raise awareness of the impact of suicide on both those who have suicidal feelings and those who have been bereaved by suicide.

SOS was founded by Michael Mansfield QC and Yvette Greenway, following the death of Michael's daughter in May 2015.

SOS and The Kaleidoscope Plus Group (KPG) have been working together on joint campaigns to eradicate the stigma of mental illness and suicide.

Trio bringing songs of the 1940s to museum

SINGING trio The D-Day Darlings will be performing at a Second World War themed event at the Black Country Living Museum.

The 26-acre Dudley museum site will be recreating the 1940s on July 16. For details call 0121 520 8054.

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Homes firm backing on allotments open event

VOLUNTEERS are urging Birmingham residents to display their green-fingered credentials – with the help of a leading regional housebuilder.

Persimmon Homes Central has donated £600 to Court Oak Road Allotments Association in Quinton to assist with its annual open day in August. The association has been selected as one of Persimmon Homes Central's Community Champions, with the project seeing a pot of £24,000 donated to local groups and charities over a year.

The site has been managed by a group of volunteer plot holders from the local community since 2013, and they are keen to encourage more community involvement this year, as well as promote the on-site gardening supplies shop.

Geoffrey Garrish, site safety officer for the Association, said: "We are so thankful to Persimmon Homes Central for their generous donation. The annual open day is a huge event for us as we are keen to involve all sectors of the community and offer support to anyone who takes on an allotment or needs a gardening solution. We are hoping this year's open day will prove bigger than ever and help us attract a number of new plot holders."

Amanda Benjamin, at Persimmon Homes Central, said: "We are delighted to be supporting the Court Oak Road Allotments Association which provides a focal point for the community." To apply for funding, visit www.persimmonhomes.com/charity

Church launches in city centre

A NEW church was officially launched in Birmingham city centre. The Church of England will be unveiling their place of worship along Gas Street at 7.30pm.

They bought the former Gas Resort House in 2014 and developed it using donations received from both the region and across the world.

Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Reverend David Urquhart, hailed the launch as a brilliant moment for the church in the city. He said: "This is a brilliant moment in the life of the Church of England in Birmingham.

"We have prayed, discussed, given, supported and prayed some more for all that has gone on to bring St Luke's Gas Street to this launch date.

"But this is only the beginning."

Pavilion quiz to help good cause

WOLVERHAMPTON Christian Aid Committee holds a quiz night at the Goodyear Pavilion on Friday, February 19, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £2.50 for teams of up to six. Call Roger Poole on 01902 730507.

Custody blocks firm penalised for delay

The 60-cell facility in Bromford Lane

THE construction firm building two new police custody blocks in Oldbury and Perry Barr is facing a penalty of more than £1 million after delays of nine months.

The 60-cell facility in Bromford Lane, Oldbury, should have opened in June last year and the suite in Holford Drive, Perry Barr, was due to open in November as part of a £20m deal.

Now builders Willmott Dixon say the Perry Barr site won't be ready until the end of this month at the earliest and a provisional date of March 21 has been set for the Oldbury block. Chief Constable Dave Thompson said his faith in the firm, which is also carrying out the £33m revamp of the force's Lloyd House HQ, had been 'dented'.

Design errors had previously been blamed on the delays. He said: "The force's confidence is low. We have dealt with the contractor on several levels and also involved with the previous chief constable who raised concerns. The contract made provision that the company would incur a penalty if there were delays. The current penalty is just under £1m, currently standing at £915,000. But looking at the expected date of handover it will exceed £1m. Our aim is to ensure these properties are delivered as soon as possible because we want custody blocks not cash."

Mr Thompson added that the delay had posed a 'challenge' for cell capacity. Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said: "It is welcome that West Midlands Police has robust procedures in place to make sure that when contractors overrun the public do not lose out financially."

Shopping complex hope for former foundry site

A RETAIL park will be built on a former foundry site in Oldbury, under plans by the new owners of Birmingham's Grand Central shopping centre.

Eleven shops – including a discount foodstore – will be built on the 12-acre site in Bromford Road if the proposal gets the go-ahead.

The scheme is a scaled-back version of long-running plans for a retail site dubbed The Junction. A retail park was first mooted for the site near Oldbury Ringway 18 years ago, with plans coming and going in various guises ever since.

The site, off West Bromwich Street, has long been left empty with buildings flattened near to Sandwell and Dudley railway station. The new plans, by property group Hammerson, suggest the scheme is truly back on the cards.

The company owns Birmingham's Bullring centre and recently bought the city's new Grand Central shopping complex for £335 million. However, ward Councillor Mahboob Hussain was cautious about the scheme.

Empty

Councillor Hussain said: "It's good news that the planning application has gone in and I hope it happens. But this has been going on since 1997, so I'll only believe it when I see it. The land has been empty for near enough 20 years now. A number of schemes have come forward but haven't gone through."

David Yale, who owns the Jolly Collier pub in Junction Street, said the plans were keenly anticipated. He said: "It's a fantastic idea. I can't believe it's dragged on for so long. It will create jobs, bring revenue to Oldbury."

A design and access statement submitted as part of the plans states: "The site, now vacant, was previously the home of Hunt Brothers Griffin Foundry which was demolished in 2003 to make way for a larger retail and leisure development that didn't come to fruition. Smaller scale industrial units had occupied the northern end of the site since the 1950s."

Permission was initially granted for the shopping centre in November 2004.

In 2007, 2009 and 2011, Sandwell Council granted approval to amendments.

A £50 million scheme, covering a 34-acre site and creating 1,000 jobs, was given final approval in 2011 but the land has remained empty ever since.

Albion fan on top of the world

Christopher Morrall in his Albion shirt on top of the highest mountain in Ecuador, Chimborazo

INTREPID West Brom fan Christopher Morrall has boing boinged his way to the top of one of the world's highest peaks. The 32-year-old of Kidderminster, has travelled around South America, visiting Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

It was during a visit to Ecuador that he climbed Ecuador's highest mountain Chimborazo, standing at 20,702ft (6,310 metres), last month. And the Baggies fan decided to show his allegiance to Tony Pulis' team by pulling out his blue and white shirt as he reached the summit. He said: "I quickly grabbed my Albion shirt which I had taken with me in the event that I made the summit and held it up and then put it on over five layers of clothes.

"I believe this to be the highest point any West Bromwich Albion shirt has ever been in the world."

Mr Morrall had been out travelling through South America for the past 10 months and he struck upon the idea for the climb.

He battled temperatures of -20C (-4F) as he scaled the heights of the peak which is sacred to the Ecuadorians. "I had to watch carefully where I placed my feet as large crevices would appear from nowhere with no bottom in sight.

"The route down was almost as challenging and dangerous as the route up, with an urgency to be off the mountain by 9am to 10am to avoid the risk of avalanche.

"It was a fantastic and rewarding feeling to have made the climb successfully and to have made it back safely."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dead woman in canal is named

A WOMAN found dead in a canal in Smethwick has been named by police.

The body of Shareen Liaqat, aged 20, from West Bromwich, was found in the stretch of water on the afternoon of Wednesday January 27.

Police say they are continuing to treat her death as unexplained.

Results from a post mortem examination which was carried out have proved inconclusive and further tests are now required. West Midlands Polices spokeswoman Hannah Fitzgerald said her family are being kept updated by investigating officers.

Double Brum shows for Jools

JOOLS Holland is to play two Christmas shows in Birmingham this year.

The keyboard player and TV presenter will be appearing with his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra in Symphony Hall on December 14 and 15 at 7.30pm.

Special guests will be The Selecter's Pauline Black and Arthur 'Gaps' Hendrickson.

Ruby Turner and Louise Marshall will also be singing with the band.

Tickets costing £37 have just gone on sale from the box office on 0121 345 0600.

'Patience' plea on Metro works

A COUNCIL boss has called for patience and understanding from motorists when work on the 'vital' Metro extension starts in May. Wolverhampton deputy leader Councillor Peter Bilson highlighted the importance of an integrated transport system.

The Metro will be connected to the soon-to-be redeveloped railway station. He said: "The locations of the two new tram stops outside the bus and railway stations are vital in offering a full and complete interchange."

Popular fair tunes in to music memorabilia

A POPULAR music venue is hosting a fair for lovers of vinyl, CDs and memorabilia.

A record and CD fair will be held at The Robin 2 in Bilston on February 21, with around 10,000 records on the day. Collections and individual items from many genres will be on offer.

They will include rock, pop, jazz, soul and blues. There is an admission charge of £1 and doors are open from 11am-4pm. For table reservations call 07866 237094.

Library volunteers call

VOLUNTEERS of all ages are needed to help in Sandwell's 19 libraries. They are needed for a range of roles from sorting books and filling shelves, to helping put on events.

The minimum is 16 and to find out more e-mail library_admin@sandwell.gov.uk or call 0121 569 4911.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Well Trump that! Adele is definitely radio no no

THE singer Adele has complained about Donald Trump using her music during his bid to secure the Republican nomination for The White House. Couldn't agree more, it is bad enough having to hear her turgid dirges on the radio.

❒❒❒

ANOTHER brilliant idea from the wacky world of local government. This time it's Hackney Council, which is planning to introduce £1,000 fines for vagrants sleeping in doorways. Good luck with enforcing that one. Let's hope they have their credit cards handy.

❒❒❒

MANY years ago, when I was more than a bit gullible and naive, I made a half-hearted attempt to haggle with a car salesman, asking him to knock £28 off the price of a car I was about to buy.

The salesman, who up until that moment had been demonstrating more patter than Jimmy Tarbuck, then returned from a cloak-and-dagger meeting with the sales manager, sadly shaking his head saying he could only give me £8 off 'plus a good tank of petrol'.

Which reminds me a bit of David Cameron's attempt to renegotiate Britain's membership of the European Union. He didn't ask for much, and they gave him slightly less than he asked for.

I bought the thing anyway, and quickly grew to hate the sight of it when it kept blowing its head gasket. Would you be terribly surprised if the same turned out to be true for the new EU treaty?

❒❒❒

THE story goes that when Elvis Presley lived at Gracelands, only he was ever allowed upstairs. Not even his parents, who shared the mansion with him, were permitted in the bedrooms, lest they caught sight of him looking less than immaculate.

A bit extreme, maybe, but at least it shows he took a bit of pride in his appearance. Compare this to the story of Skerne Park Academy in Darlington, where headmistress Kate Chisholm caused an indignant backlash by asking parents if they would be so kind as to get dressed before they dropped their children off at school. Do these people have no self-respect? What sort of future will these children have if their parents tell them it is ok to turn up to the school gates in their pyjamas?

It's the same with dress-down Fridays at work. Why Friday, as opposed to dress-down Tuesday? Rightly or wrongly, the message it sends out is that they are already winding down for the weekend, and aren't really going to bust a gut unless they have to.

Now I don't go buy into the old adage that "Clothes maketh the man", but if somebody finds it too much effort to get dressed in the morning, perhaps they are not really cut out for the demanding role of bringing up a child.

A Kodak Brownie camera with parts from camera flash

Another one of Paul's many unique clocks

Paul Parry from Coven who makes unique clocks

Clocking on for some stunning timepieces

Paul Parry's spare time hobby is going places and has caught the attention of a Dragon Den's star, as JOE EDWARDS reports

TAKE a little time to take in these stunning timepieces.

They take months to produce and sell for thousands of pounds and are just some of the hundreds of stunning clocks made by Paul Parry in his spare time.

Mr Parry uses both upcycled electronics and new materials to make the clocks on evenings and weekends, from the spare bedroom of his home in Coven, near Wolverhampton.

The 43-year-old set up Bad Dog Designs with partner Karen in April 2014, and the business has taken flight with customers around the world looking to get their hands on a truly individual, unique design.

Rewards

Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis recently spotted Bad Dog Designs through his weekly Small Business Sunday initiative on Twitter, where he rewards entrepreneurs who send him a quick description of their business.

Paul recently showcased some of his designs at Liberty's department store in London and is due to meet Mr Paphitis at a Small Business Sunday convention at The ICC, Birmingham tomorrow.

With prices starting at around £300, Paul, who works in management for a systems maintenance infrastructure company, has been commissioned to produce a robot clock, using brass and stainless steel, for a hotel in Singapore which he will sell for £7,000, his biggest sale to date.

"The robot clock is on commission for £7,000 and is going to a boutique hotel in Singapore which is being built as we speak," said Paul.

"It will stand in the foyer and will be the first thing people see when they walk in."

Paul says he has now made around 200 different clocks during his spare time, all of which are signed by himself.

These include the Watson, which was originally a 1938 watt meter, the Captain Nemo MK II, made from an old music box casing from the 1850s, and the Marconi MK II, styled to look like an old valve radio or amplifier.

Design taken from Turing's Bombe used to decode Enigma Machine messages

"I only do evenings and weekends, some commissions can take around four to five months to complete. The robot clock will take 18-months," he added.

"The quickest I've ever done one is in two or three evenings but that was a small, simple clock. "The cost is a reflection of the time and effort that goes into every clock.

"Every one is different, everybody wants something unique to them. Hopefully somebody will come along some day and commission me to do a clock that is worth £20,000. When people see the clocks, they will ask 'what is that?' Then the second question will be 'where can I get one from?'"

Nixie tubes, which are used to display the time on Paul's steampunk clocks, were hugely popular in the 1950s and 60s and used in gadgets of the time, from petrol pumps to military equipment.

The last were made in Ukraine and Russia in the early 1990s, but Paul scours the internet for old tubes, which have a distinctive orange glow and each digit stacked behind the other within the tube. Small ones cost around £6 each, medium-sized ones approximately £30 and large ones can be bought for as much as £200.

"They are not economically viable for companies to produce, it's very much an old technology. Its a niche market," said Paul.

Every clock is handmade with recycled equipment and original vintage items, but modern microprocessor technology is used to power the old tubes. Most are named after famous scientists and electrical engineers, such as Michael Faraday, Nikola Tesla and Guglielmo Marconi.

People from all over the globe have bought a clock made by Paul, who remarkably doesn't own one himself.

"They're named after 17th and 18th century scientists – Faraday, Tesla, Gordon – mainly so I know which one is which," he added.

Celebrating

"I've done clocks celebrating birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and even as Christmas gifts. The enquires I get are from all over the place.

"When people see the clocks, they really do sell themselves. Around 30 to 40 per cent of my customers are repeat customers, which has surprised me.

"One guy from the United States has bought five off me. I've had people from the States and Singapore come over here to pick up their clocks.

"Sometimes when they are going out to China and Singapore, I'll use a shipping company but a lot do come over to pick them up and see how it all works.

"The business funds itself, a sale of a clock funds the parts for the next one.

"I love building the clocks, I find it relaxing. I have to sell them though, otherwise I'd just have a house full of them. I don't actually own one, but one of these days I will actually own a clock that I have made myself."

To see the full range of remarkable clocks which Paul has produced, visit www.bad-dog-designs.co.uk

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Council's damaging parking fee obsession

SANDWELL Labour Council's unhealthy obsession with parking fees and fines has damaged our trade, business and commerce destroying thousands of jobs and leaving many town centre shops boarded up in the process.

I am frankly disgusted with this council's blatant refusal to listen to the people's concerns and fear their failed policy of parking charges is widening to West Bromwich's green belt which is effectively a tax on going to the park.

The land which was originally given to the people of West Bromwich from the 5th Earl of Dartmouth circa 1878 and the 6th Earl of Dartmouth who awarded the people of West Bromwich the freehold of the park in 1919 with the deeds being handed over by the Prince of Wales in 1923 has since been cut off from the town centre when the Expressway was built in 1973 destroying the tennis courts and golf course which was moved to Sandwell Valley.

The council is now requiring payment to park on this land suggesting that if they keep moving the park outside of its original boundary they will have effectively ripped up the perpetual deed of covenant granting free access to the area. Paying to park does not end there when families out walking their dogs or cycling with their children have the worry of cutting short their leisure time only to realise they are five minutes late and find a bunch of excited council wardens queuing to issue £70 tickets. Worse still visitors may start to park at the crematorium resulting in overflow parking on Newton Road and Forge Lane. So will there be charges to park at a funeral?

GRAHAM NOCK
UKIP Treasurer and spokesman for Charlemont & Grove Vale

Zeppelin raid event gratitude

IN appreciation of the neighbouring communities of Wednesbury, Darlaston, Tipton and Bilston I record my gratitude to everyone involved with the commemoration events at St Barts, Wednesbury, on Sunday 31.

The lives of 35 local people were lost so violently on 31st January, 1916 as a result of heinous Zeppelin raids.

Ian Bott, local historian had written a book entitled 'The Midlands Zeppelin Outrage' about 'the worst atrocity to hit home' which is recommended to readers. St Barts, Wednesbury, provided a welcoming venue for displays and books which added poignancy to the solemn Commemoration Service.

The fleet of Zeppelins that inflicted such death and destruction on our local communities in 1916 left us with a huge challenge in handing down the warning that war can produce new horrors for each generation.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Sandwell Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
sandwell.chronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Common sense from MP over migrants

IT was refreshing to hear some common sense spoken by Labour Dudley North MP, Ian Austin regarding the allocation of asylum seekers and migrants around the UK.

As he correctly points out, the north has accepted nearly 5,000 asylum seekers, the West Midlands 3,000, while the wealthy south east, south west and east of England have only taken 1,200 between them. Some southern councils have taken no migrants at all. How is this fair and just?

When one hears of the 'prosperous south', you can now understand why they are so 'prosperous'. With minimal acceptance of asylum seekers, the southern councils do not have the extra high costs of translators, social workers, social housing and other expense associated with hosting these migrants.

Rather than the West Midland's MPs pleading for us to accept more asylum seekers to our regions, I hope they lend their support to their colleague, Ian Austin, in trying to persuade southern councils to accept their fair share and assist the north and Midlands with this ongoing and increasing burden.

G GRANT
Birmingham

Cameron's time is up

OPEN letter to the Prime Minister:

What do you think you are playing at? You cut the heating allowance, now you want to do away with the free TV licence for the over 75s.

This is a fact. Now is it to pay for all these refugees you want to bring into this country?

I paid full contributions all my working life not to be fooled by you and all your cronies. Never mind, wait, the next election will soon be here.

J SNAPE
Smethwick

Shaw thing for anthem

READER G Griffiths suggests 'Puppet on a String' by Sandie Shaw as our national anthem. To appease the EU, we could have 'Power to all our Friends' by Cliff Richard. But to leave the EU what about 'Go Now' by the Moody Blues.

R W WHITE
West Bromwich

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Pauline Hodgetts lays flowers at the memorial before the unveiling

West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey uncovers the plaque in tribute to those killed in the raid

Rev Denise Williams leads the service in Tipton Cemetery where the plaque was unveiled

Local historian Derek Nicholls with Mr Bailey and the memorial plaque at the cemetery

Claire Hughes, aged 56, linked by family to victims at their unmarked graves

Keith Hodgkins from Tipton Civic Society records the proceedings

Tribute to Zeppelin victims

"WHAT a touching tribute to commemorate Tipton's lost ones 100 years on" – the words of historian Derek Nicholls after a memorial plaque was unveiled marking the Zeppelin Raids centenary.

Orchestrated by Mr Nicholls, who has spent three years researching the raids, and with help from Friends of Tipton, more than 100 people, along with Mayor councillor Barbara Price, turned out on Friday morning to remember the 14 local people who died in the raid.

The plaque itself was unveiled by West Bromwich MP Adrian Bailey at Tipton cemetery, on Alexandra Road. On January 31 1916, the Black Country was targeted by mistake, as the German airship pilot mistook the area for Merseyside, killing 33 people in total, across Tipton, Wednesbury, Bilston and Walsall.

Bombs first hit Union Street in Tipton at around 8pm, with around five falling in the area.

One also fell outside Tipton railway station and more around Barnfield Road trading estate. In Union Street, two houses were demolished and others damaged and the gas main was set alight.

Among those who attended the service were John Wilkinson, Terry Britt and Alan James, who are all connected through Annie Wilkinson – John and Mr Britt's great aunt and Alan's great grandmother, who tragically died in the bombings.

Mr Nicholls was overjoyed to see the plaque installed at the cemetery, describing it as a 'proud day for Tipton'. He said: "I never thought in my wildest dreams something like this would happen, and it's something the area should be very honoured to have." The memorial unveiling came after candles were lit for each of the Zeppelin's six victims in Walsall.

Civic leaders from across the West Midlands and Staffordshire joined parishioners at St Andrew's Church in Birchills, where the last of 400 bombs to hail down over the Black Country on the night of January 31 landed on the lawn, used as a bowling green, beside the red-brick church.

The lives of the victims, which included the town's Lady Mayoress Mary Slater, were remembered in readings and hymns. The service, led by Fr Iain Templeton, was held on Sunday, January 31, the exact anniversary of the First World War attack.

The congregation heard how Walsall still bears the scars of that night, with damage from the raids visible on the side of a building in Bradford Place, now the Labour Club.

Leading the congregation was Walsall mayor Councillor Angela Underhill who was joined by the mayors of Dudley, Tamworth, Shrewsbury and Solihull, the deputy mayor of Walsall and the chairman of South Staffordshire District Council. Firefighters from Bloxwich Fire Station also attended.

£11k in fines paid out over dog mess

Councillor Darren Cooper, with senior warden Nabeel Yafai, and Chair of the Friends of Lightwoods Park Richard Marshall

DOG walkers in Sandwell have paid more than £11,000 in fines since the start of a hard-hitting campaign targeting people who fail to clean up after their pets.

A total of 156 dog walkers have been hit in the pocket after being caught out by wardens on streets and parks across the borough in the two years since the crackdown began.

They included nine people who were taken to court after refusing to pay the £75 fine. All ended up with a bigger bill. The action has brought in more than £11,700.

Sandwell Council has turned up the heat on dog walkers in an effort to try and keep its towns free from dog mess. Bosses hope the large number of people being fined will make others think twice before walking away from their dog's mess when out walking their pet.

Wardens have also been helped to catch offenders by fed-up people providing information about dog mess where they live or go walking and the message from the council is to keep up the good work.

Councillor Maria Crompton, environment boss at the authority, said: "We want to say a big 'thank you' to all the responsible dog owners and everyone who's provided information about dog mess, helping us to clean it up and track down those who haven't got the message. Please keep the information coming, so we can continue to tackle this issue.

"Dog fouling is a top priority for our residents. It not only looks horrible, but it's a serious health risk for children and it costs many thousands of pounds of council taxpayers' money each year to clean up." The campaign to keep the streets clean was launched in February 2014, during which more than one dog walker has been fined every week on average.

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Significant work due over adult social care

A BLUEPRINT for the future of adult social care in Sandwell has been unveiled and reveals 'significant' work needs to be done to get the council up to scratch.

The new report states the council must make 'significant improvements to the health of local communities' in order to hit the nationwide average.

Adult social care, public health and regulatory services have been joined together as part of a council cost-cutting scheme. But bosses admit the new service is facing a 'huge challenge', particularly given Government-imposed cutbacks.

The plans were approved by Sandwell councillors at cabinet. The report sets out the main aims for the services in the next 12 months – including 'looking for better ways to protect vulnerable people from harm,' 'improve the way that we commission and procure services' and 'creating the right conditions for a sustainable provider market'.

Councillor Bob Lloyd, who sits on the authority's health and adult social care scrutiny board, said the council faced 'a massive task' in the area. He said: "The council has to try to stitch together a plan with the NHS and other organisations. There's a suggestion we have more money coming in for adult social care from raising council tax but at best, it's recycling of old money and at worst all smoke and mirrors not a new fund.

"It also shifts the onus back on to Sandwell people to pay more. There's a big difference in life expectancy for people living in parts of Birmingham compared to parts of Sandwell."

They also need to 'protect frontline services as much as possible, provide value for money and make tough decisions about what we commission and deliver'.

By David Cosgrove

Unwell Clive gets Baggies of support

Clive Fellows in his beloved Baggies shirt

A LIFELONG Baggies fan with Down's syndrome has received fellow supporters' best wishes as he battles to recover from pneumonia.

The first thing 58-year-old Clive Fellows asked for when he came round in hospital was his West Brom top. His nephew Justin Fellows, who runs services for people with disabilities, took a photo of his uncle in the shirt and shared it on Twitter.

Dozens of retweets later, and Clive – who was raised in Hamstead but now lives in Leigh, near Wigan – has been seen by hundreds of Albion fans.

"People were retweeting and I encouraged them to try and get him to the top tweet with the WBA hashtag," said Justin. "When Clive saw that he was over the moon."

His onset of pneumonia was a shock for the family, who have roots in the Black Country.

"He was struggling to breathe," said Justin. "My mum rang for an ambulance, it looked like he'd got pneumonia, they put him on oxygen and gave him three blood transfusions. Now he's at home recovering."

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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

IT seems just about every Thomas, Richard and Harold is harping on about keeping fit, not drinking, eating clean and bringing up the dreaded word 'Exercise' at every opportunity this year.

It is February after all, so expectedly, others around us have been coming out in their droves to commit to just about every other health-associated resolution there is this year.

Perhaps you've got the urge to get yourself down to the gym to see what all the fuss is about?

If the pressure is starting to get to you and you're beginning to realise you could do with a bit of a health kick yourself, the good news is that Xercise4Less gym are giving the public of Smethwick a big lifeline, and as a reader of the Sandwell Chronicle or the Express & Star you can start by registering your interest to join Xercise4Less today!

Biggest

To begin your fitness journey visit here: http://www.xercise4less.co.uk/smethwick-gym

So if you were wondering what Xercise4Less has to offer that is going to suddenly make you put down the bag of Cheesy Nacho's, or prevent you from lazing around on the sofa watching endless episodes of Undateables and Gogglebox, listen up....

Xercise4Less Smethwick, opening in April, promises to be the biggest and best budget gym facility in the area and will represent unbelievable value for money with memberships starting at just £9.99 per month.

With huge, spacious facilities and more equipment than any other gym, Xercise4Less will be able to help get you in shape whatever your goal.

If you feel slightly intimidated at the prospect of training in a busy gym, don't worry, Xercise4Less will have a ladies-only area which holds all the equipment you could possibly want.

If you consider yourself as more of a class-goer you'll no doubt be looking to try one of our 40 free classes each week which will be included in the costs of your membership. So if you want to lose weight, tone up or just become a healthier, fitter you, then get registered for Xercise4Less Smethwick.

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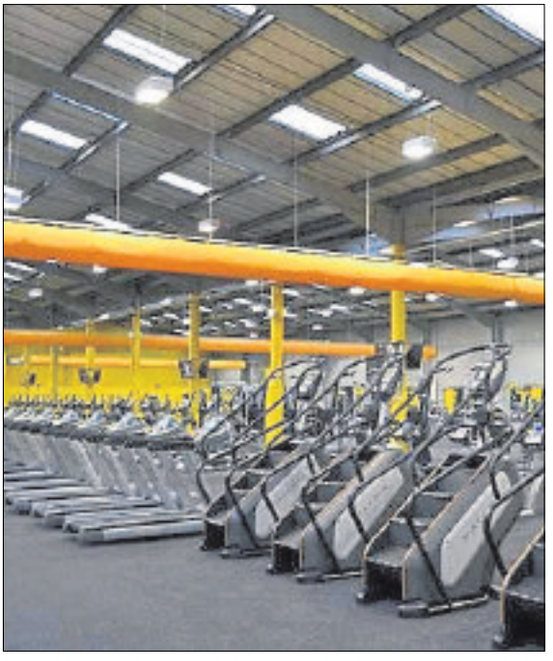
● The Colonel



A sea of fitness equipment available at the new Xercise4Less gym in Smethwick

Processions area plan for huge Hindu temple

A HINDU temple in Sandwell, which is the biggest in Europe, has revealed a major expansion plan to construct a new building for processions and festivities.

Ambitious proposals for the 21-acre Balaji Temple complex in Tividale have been submitted to Sandwell Council.

These set out a scheme to construct a 15-metre tall building, which would house a festival chariot, and build a processional route around the site in Dudley Road East.

The temple has already grown in the past 15 years to become 'the largest Hindu temple of its kind in Europe', according to the planning application.

Temple trustee Dr Venkataramana Rao said the scheme would ensure the temple was better equipped to host some of the key Hindu festivals.

Expansion plan – the biggest Hindu temple in Europe, based in Tividale

Wood

Dr Rao said: "The new building will help with the festivals. At the moment we can't keep the chariot anywhere outside because it's made of wood – that's why we need to build this new building. It's part and parcel of the Hindu community. All the temples in India and also those in London have chariots and places to keep them.

"It is an important part of the worship of Hindu gods, that's why we have a chariot and need this new building.

"At the moment the route around the temple won't hold the weight of the chariot. We need to make changes to the processional route."

Dr Rao said the chariots are created for every festival in the Hindu calendar and at present the temple lacks a place to store them.

Temple chiefs also want to create a purpose-built route around the site for processions to take place as currently, it is not in a fit state to bear the weight of the chariot and the people carrying it. If the work gets the go-ahead it will reaffirm the temple's status as one of the most highly-regarded in Europe.

A design and access statement submitted as part of the application states: "The processional route and the chariot house building will provide facilities required to be able to hold a traditional Hindu festival Ratha-Yatra." The report, written by architect Monika Lepkevicite sets out the scheme. It says: "The planning application is for the erection of a Chariot House and Processional Route at the Shri Venkateswara (Balaji) Temple. The temple site comprises a 21.5 acre site in Tividale and it contains a complex of buildings which attracts visitors from the whole of the UK as well as serving the local Hindu community.

"The proposal of this planning application is to construct a Processional Route for the Hindu festival Ratha-Yatra (Chariot Festival)."

Council planners will rule on the application in due course.

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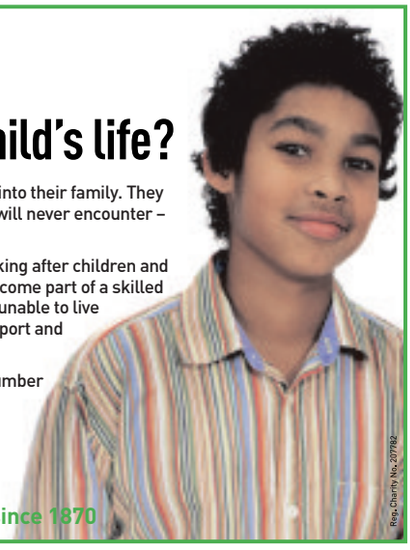

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Teenager arrested over hoax bomb call

POLICE have charged a teenage girl with making a 'copycat' hoax bomb call to a school in Wednesbury.

The 14-year-old was arrested at her home address in West Bromwich on the morning of Friday, January 29, in connection with a threat made to Wodensborough Ormiston Academy the previous day.

The girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was bailed to appear at Sandwell Youth Court on Monday, February 15.

Inspector Noeleen Murrin, from Birmingham Police, said: "These kinds of offences are not only a drain on police, council and school resources but they also waste the time of pupils. We take reports like this very seriously and have acted quickly to identify those we believe are responsible."

The threat, described as a 'copycat' attack, came amid a string of other security alerts at schools around the Midlands in the past three weeks.

A Russian-based Twitter group claimed responsibility for threats made to six schools, saying they intended to cause "mayhem".

West Midlands Police said they were investigating the calls. Meanwhile a 14-year-old boy arrested on suspicion of making a separate hoax call to a school in Great Barr has been released on conditional police bail.

Showdown due over problems of illegal parking near school

CAMPAIGNERS will head for a showdown meeting as plans to clamp down on illegal parking outside a Wednesbury school go before council bosses.

A petition with around 200 signatures from parents and staff at Old Park Primary School is calling for a lollipop lady to be instated alongside a zebra crossing. Flashing road signs to alert drivers to slow down have also been requested. It comes following complaints of vehicles speeding, parking on zig-zag lines and across driveways when picking up and dropping off children at the school in recent months.

Parent Hardeep Bhillon whose four-year-old son is in reception class said that she decided to start the petition after she feared a major accident would happen.

She said: "The problems have still continued since Christmas, so I will be attending a meeting to give my point of view. As it is open to the public it is hoped that other parents will come along too.

Confident

We will only be allowed five minutes to talk at the meeting and but I feel confident that we know what we want. "The things that are requested in the petition are reasonable and will not cost the council a lot of money – if they don't support us in this then I will take it to appeal.

"Hopefully someone will come out to assess the situation too. I was even crossing myself when a car came speeding out of nowhere. It has been an on-going problem for quite a while, but I decided to start a petition because something needed to be done."

By Clare Butler

In December, Old Park headteacher Teresa Boddington also branded the situation an 'accident waiting to happen'.

Speaking at the time she said: "We are working closely with local PSCO's and have even set up our own junior PCSO system where children alert drivers to inconsiderate parking too. We are working together to appeal to the council to hopefully introduce some calming and road safety measures, as it is an accident waiting to happen."

Councillor Elaine Costigan, for the Wednesbury ward, said: "It is horrendous. Parking can be a problem at most schools but here a parent has had the guts to start a petition to get something done about it. It needs patrols in the area and catch those who are parking inconsiderately. At the minute it seems that nothing has changed."

The petition will go before the Cabinet Petition Meeting at Sandwell Council on February 24.

The dumped rubbish at Wallows Lane, in Walsall, just over the M6 from Wednesbury

A £1,700 payout for fly-tipper who dumped rubbish

A FLY-TIPPER from Wednesbury, caught dumping a mattress and household waste in Walsall for £20 has been ordered to pay nearly £1,700 after being taken to court.

Having pocketed £20 to dispose of a blue and white double mattress and two builders bags filled with assorted household waste, Daniel Avery, of Thorn Close, was caught on CCTV fly tipping the waste from the back of his mother's Citroen Berlingo van on Wallows Lane, Walsall.

Avery pleaded guilty to fly-tipping at Walsall Magistrates Court on February 1.

He was fined £600 and ordered to pay £1,031.59 costs, with a victim surcharge of £60.

Councillor Adrian Andrew, Walsall Council deputy leader said: "This man narrowly escaped being banned from driving which is one of the penalties at the courts' disposal. This blatant kind of criminal activity shows a total disregard for the law abiding residents."

The prosecution follows on from a case in September 2015 where a man from Bloxwich was filmed dumping household waste at a site plagued by fly-tipping. before being banned from driving and ordered to pay more than £1,700.

Neil Brookes, of Blakenall Lane in Bloxwich, was filmed as part of a covert filming operation in April last year.

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600 sign petition to save landmark pub

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to save a landmark pub which is to close after being sold.

The Abbey Hotel in Bearwood is due to shut at the end of February – but regulars are not giving up their pub without a fight.

More than 600 people have already signed a petition in just a couple of days. People who drink there are desperate not to see it close. Details of who is taking over the pub in Abbey Road and what the future holds for the building have yet to be disclosed.

Sean Crutchley, who set up the petition, said: "We were extremely distressed to hear that without any prior notice or warning our beloved pub was to close. It subsequently leaves a fantastic manager and his family without a home, brilliant staff members without jobs and loyal customers without their second home.

Traditional

"We understand that this is a business but it is a lot more to us – it is our family, friends, times of joy and sadness that we have all shared and supported each other through."

James Emery, an Abbey regular for around 20 years, said the news had come as a 'total shock to staff and regulars alike' and that it was a 'great, old traditional pub' which needed saving.

The announcement means the Abbey is the latest Bearwood pub to face the axe after the Thimblemill was demolished to make way for a care home.

The former site of the Thimblemill is currently fenced off with work on the care home yet to begin and residents fear another drawn-out process at the Abbey.

The pub's owner Stonegate confirmed a bid for the pub from an unnamed party had been accepted.

The Abbey Hotel in Bearwood, which is due to close in a matter of weeks

Top safety award for group

A BIRMINGHAM volunteer group and registered charity which works to help make the area's workplaces safer has been honoured for its efforts.

The Birmingham Health, Safety and Environment Association has been named overall winner at the annual Alan Butler Awards, which recognise excellence and achievement of organisations within the Safety Groups UK movement.

SGUK is made up of around 70 local voluntary organisations, which each consist of health and safety professionals who give up their free time to promote, share information and offer practical help to employers in their communities in a bid to prevent accidents and ill health at work.

BHSEA was recognised for offering a high standard of regular events, strong communication and links with the wider community. One of its major achievements included its exceptionally well-attended construction seminar Looking Back – Moving Forward.

Storage solutions at Ikea

IKEA Birmingham in Wednesbury hopes to offer storage solutions for home lovers with a special event being held on February 20 and 21.

Called the Ideas Festival, the event will be the perfect day out for the whole family, from fun and inspiring in-store activities as well as lots of tips and tricks about how to display your possessions beautifully from a team of experts on-hand.

It comes after research shows that Brits have the smallest homes in the Europe, meaning that the need for achieving the optimum use of space is ever-more necessary.

Visitors can even master the 'art of tidying' during an exclusive bookable workshop run by a trained life coach and Ikea experts.

The workshop will give attendees insight into the revolutionary method of simplifying, organising, and storing, from how to fold clothes properly, to how to display items you love in a beautiful way.

The bookable workshops will be run for Ikea Family members before the store opens, with mini versions of the workshop running throughout the day for all visitors.

If you'd like to sign up or find out more, then visit www.ikea.com/ms/en_GB/ikea-family.

For more information about the Ideas Festival, visit http://www.ikea.com/gb/en/store/wednesbury. Alternatively, for helpful tips and inspirational ideas then visit www.ikea.co.uk.

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Boy racer pair are in court

TWO men, including one from Tipton, have been handed suspended jail terms for planning a high-speed road race close to homes.

Car cruisers Robert Darby, aged 25, of Wordsley, and Mark Guest, 35, of Tipton, admitted contempt of court after taking part in a high-speed dash in Wolverhampton last October – breaching an order banning the activity.

The High Court, sitting at Birmingham, heard it involved 30 cars and 20 spectators on the Black Country Route in Springvale, Wolverhampton, last October. Darby was driving one of the vehicles and Guest was his passenger.

Darby and Guest admitted contempt of court by breaching the injunction and were sentenced to 28 days suspended prison sentence. They were also each ordered to pay £443.63 in costs.

Fundraiser for archives

THE Friends of Dudley Archives and Local History Centre has a fundraising coffee morning later this month.

It is being held at the centre in Tipton Road on Saturday, February 20, from 11am to 2pm and will also include a home-made craft stalls. Membership of the group, formed in 2001, costs £10 a year and includes free admission to its monthly talks.

FOCUS ON TIPTON

Workers chippy in to raise funds for little girl's op

Report by David Callaghan

A LITTLE girl with cerebral palsy is a step closer to a potentially life-changing operation thanks to help from fundraisers in the Black Country

Born 11 weeks premature and weighing just 3lb 2oz, Georgie Gibbs was diagnosed with spastic diplegic cerebral palsy when a year old.

Now aged three, Georgie has to walk with splints attached to her legs or with a walking frame. She has daily exercises to relax her muscles.

Now her family in Worcester is fundraising for an operation in America, which will cost around £65,000 and is aimed at helping Georgie walk unaided.

Coseley father and son Archie and Steve Payton, aged 76 and 54, decided to help after they met Georgie's family at a car boot sale.

Determined

The Paytons, along with their local chippy Chipton Fryer & Cafe, on Bloomfield Road, Tipton, have raised more than £1,000.

The family is waiting to hear from officials at NHS England's Commissioning through Evaluation Programme, to find out if Georgie can have the operation in the UK.

Georgie's mother Clare, 41, said: "We'll find out in March if we can go ahead with having the operation in this country, but if not we have an April 18 confirmed date for America. Georgie is a determined little soul and we will fight tooth and nail either way for her to have the operation." Archie and Steve said Georgie had 'stolen their hearts'. Archie added: "We'll move heaven and earth to help that little girl."

To help visit www.gofundme.com/help-georgie

Clare Gibbs from Worcester, with daughters Georgie aged three, Ella, five, and husband Carl as they visit the Chipton Fryer & Cafe, in Bloomfield Rd, Tipton where staff and customers have raised £100 to help pay for Georgie's treatment

Customer rating rise for society

Richard Newton and Taranjit Kaur of the Tipton branch

THE Tipton and Coseley Building Society's annual customer service survey found more people were happy with its standard of service.

Almost 99 per cent of members surveyed last year said they were likely or very likely to recommend the building society to a friend, up from 97 per cent on the previous year.

Close on 98 per cent of the 739 customers that responded also rated the Tipton's service as excellent or very good – up from 97 per cent in 2014.

Richard Newton, Tipton's chief executive, said: "Asking members to provide feedback on the service we offer them gives us the chance to learn and get a better understanding of what they expect from us.

"We are pleased to have scored so highly once again, this recognises the consistently high standards of our staff, and we'll do our utmost to maintain these excellent results."

Members who completed the survey were entered into a draw and Taranjit Kaur from the Tipton branch is now the owner of a brand new iPad.

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Hands on – gaming appeals to all ages

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COMPETITION

Show on the button with tech treats

IT'S Back – Britain's biggest consumer tech show, Gadget Show Live, returns to Birmingham's NEC this Easter.

The show which runs from Thursday, March 31 to Sunday, April 3, features four fantastic new areas this year – Better Life, Power Up, The Lab and The Arcade – making it the perfect day out for everyone.

And the Chronicles have teamed up with the organisers to give 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the show.

The Super Theatre also makes a powerful return as presenters Jason Bradbury, Jon Bentley, Ortis Deley and Amy Williams host an hour-long performance overflowing with tech treats.

For the first time ever, the Super Theatre performances, featuring the TV show's presenters, will be filmed for an episode of The Gadget Show to be broadcast on Channel Five later this year giving visitors the chance to feature in the programme alongside the presenters.

The new areas include:-

Better Life – where visitors will discover tech that's been engineered to enhance their everyday lives.

Power Up – finding technology with the power to drive lives forward

The Lab - concept and innovation are integral to modern day tech and visitors can discover inspirational tech for the future

The Arcade – the place for gamers to become truly immersed in the very latest titles on the market

For more information and tickets, please visit gadgetshowlive.net

the gadget show LIVE

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning simply answer this question.

What are the new areas called?

Send answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Gadget Show Competition, Chronicle Series (Editorial) 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date Thursday, February 18. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision final.

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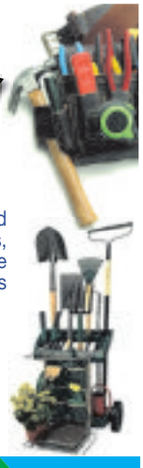

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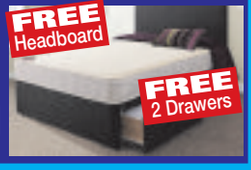

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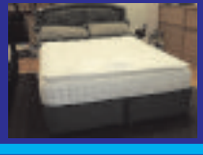

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Business booming for Designa Blinds

ADVERTISING FEATURE

SINCE beginning the business eight years ago, Dave and Saba have seen their business grow from strength to strength.

The business specialise in vertical and roller blinds and a fabrics only service. All blinds designed are of a child safe nature.

The job is seen through from start to finish – measuring, quotations, manufacturing and fitting.

Recently to improve their customer service, they have invested in state-of-the-art machinery to improve both quality and output.

The company originally started in the family's garden shed, eight years later they now have shops in Halesowen and Oldbury and a display unit in Bearwood indoor market. The expansion also means they have been able to employ five full time staff.

The recently opened factory and showroom in Albert Street, Oldbury also has ample parking and potential customers are urged to visit the new showroom.

If budget is an issue, then Dave emphasises that he can measure and fit for a whole house or just a single window if that is all that is required.

Designa Blinds are also a new member of the Chamber of Commerce and in the near future Dave and Saba are looking to offer a franchise in outer areas such as Bromsgrove, Tamworth and Kidderminster.

The shop is open Monday – Thursday, 9am - 5pm, Friday and Saturday 9am – 1pm.

For further information you can visit their website at www.designa-blinds.com or telephone 0121 572 9713.

Dave outside his new premises in Albert Street, Oldbury

Dave and Saba, seen with the new machinery

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Strictly Stunning

Salsa dancer Norma's new smile would get a 'ten from Len'

Norma Aston – all my confidence is back

A PICTURE snapped at a dance group's farewell party to mark a friend's departure to Jamaica showed more than what vivacious Norma Aston was expecting.

As the well-wishes were made and memorable dancing stories exchanged amongst members of the Uksalsafeet classes at Willenhall's Chart Centre, the cameras and smart phones did their work.

But a single profile shot of Norma captured a different story to all the other photographs taken at that event.

"My teeth had been troublesome for years, but when I saw the photo and realised just how far forward my top teeth had moved I knew I had to get something done. It was a turning point for me," recalls Norma of Willenhall.

The youthful 60-something-year-old salsa enthusiast, who attends classes every Saturday to help perfect her technique in this pastime made popular by programmes like Strictly Come Dancing, adds: "There were a number of things that came together which encouraged me to get things sorted.

"I had seen an article in my local paper about a woman, Ann [Skitt], who attends the same gym as myself at the centre. I was impressed how problems with her teeth were resolved."

Ann, a patient of Denture Clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng), suffered with an ill-fitting, lower denture and a long-standing issue was fixed with an implant-retained prosthetic.

Adds Norma: "I knew what I wanted and was already in my mind going down the implant denture route.

"At the same time, my step-daughter was encouraging me to see her implant dentist, the well-respected Dr Owain Rees."

"I asked my regular dentist to refer me to Steven and a consultation was arranged. Dental work is such a visual thing and unlike hospital surgical work we get to choose who undertakes it.

"It was so important for me that I made the correct choice."

Enthusiastic

Husband Don, a former design engineer and dance band frontman, who met Norma 32 years ago while playing at the Corpus Christi Centre, Wednesfield, takes up the story: "We'd done some research, but websites can really say anything and it's not the same as getting an impression face to face. When we saw Steven, he was so enthusiastic about his work and instilled confidence in us that his clinic would be able to do the job well. But I had one searching question that was really important to me. I told him 'I know my wife' and then asked: 'Will she still be the same after the work is completed?'

North Street's dental implant surgeon, Dr Owain Rees (left) BDS, DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576 with principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353

"Steven was very reassuring and told me she would look the same, but with better teeth. We were never pressured and told to go away and think things through before making a decision."

With referrals in-house, Norma was seen by North Street Dental and Implant Clinic surgeon Dr Owain Rees BDS, DGDP (UK) DIP IMP DENT (UCL). Under one roof, with four modern surgeries, the clinical discipline of high quality denture provision sits side by side with general, cosmetic and implant dentistry. Norma's treatment plan included intravenous sedation, the placing of six lower implants to support a removable overdenture and a traditional upper denture prescription. The former City Hospital accounts manager, says: "Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great .

"He explained everything and I embraced the treatment plan.

"I'd always cared for my teeth, but I have a family history of gum problems and for more than 20 years I'd had a partial denture. I never realised it didn't fit properly until I saw Steven. I'd just grown into it.

"My new teeth . . . I couldn't ask for more and I'm amazed at the difference. They look so natural," she adds. Don agrees her new smile is "stunning."

Confidence is back

Norma enjoys a hectic lifestyle juggling dancing with personal commitments and volunteer stints at the Locksmith's House, Willenhall, a well-preserved piece of living Victorian history.

"I love working there and Don helps too. I used to be self-conscious of my smile when meeting people and was always careful how I smiled. Now I have all my confidence back and my only regret is that I didn't get my teeth sorted out three years ago."

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I spy a winner

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An Express & Star supplement

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Gabrielle Aplin

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Ezra Furman

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Raymond Froggatt
Sun at 8.30pm, £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Gabrielle Aplin
Sun at 7pm, £12.50
The Institute, Digbeth, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Sanchez & Romain Virgo
Sun at 6pm,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Symphony X
Fri at 8.30pm, £17
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

The Definitive Elvis Experience
Sat at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

All Time Low
Sat at 6pm, £28.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Willie And The Bandits
Thu at 7.30pm, £10
The Robin, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Christopher Paul Stelling
Wed at 7.30pm,
Hare & Hounds, 1 Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

Michael McGoldrick, John McCusker & John Doyle
Sun at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Pete Kent
Wed at 7.30pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

The Legends Of American Country Show: Tribute
Mon at 8pm,
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ. Call 01902 401211

Nathaniel Rateliff & The Night Sweats
Mon at 7pm, £10
The Institute, Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Runrig
Thu at 8pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

JAZZ & BLUES

The Tim Amann X-Tet
Tue at 8.30pm,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

Hermes Ensemble
Fri at 1.10pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

The En Suite Electric Band
Fri at 7pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Fidelio Trio
Wed at 7.30pm,
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, University of Birmingham, B15 2TS. Call 0121 414 7333

BICS 2015/16 Maria Joao Pires And Milos Popovic In Recital
Fri at 1pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Emma Johnson & Mozart's Clarinet Concerto
Wed at 2.30pm - 4.30pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ. Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO Benevolent Fund Concert
Sun at 3pm,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Tchaikovsky's Sixth
Wed at 7.30pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

CBSO 2015-16 - Beethoven Piano Concertos
Sat at 3pm, £12.50 - £45
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

The Big Band Evening
Sun at 8pm, £2
Great Wyrley Sports & Social Club, Walsall Road, WS6 6DP
Call 01543 502997

THEATRE

The Simon And Garfunkel Story
Sat at 7.30pm, £17.50
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

Egg And Spoon (Under 5s)
Tue at 1.30pm, 3.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

The Lost Things
Thu at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Jersey Boys
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 573320

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?: Stafford Players
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT.
Call 01785 254653

20 Stories High And Theatre-Rites: The Broke 'N' Beat Collective
Tue at 5pm, 8pm, Wed at 8pm,
mac, Cannon Hill Road, Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Of Mice And Men
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, £8.50 - £35
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Private Lives
Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Impossible
Tue at 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2.30pm, 7.30pm,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Single Spies
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cabaret XXL 2016
Thu at 9.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Dinosaur Zoo Meet The T Rex
Sat at 1pm, 3.30pm, Sun at 11pm, Mon at 2pm,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Kite
Tue at 11.30am, 2.30pm, Wed at 11.30am, 2.30pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Cinderella: Krazy Kat Theatre
Sat at 11.30am - 1.50pm, 2pm - 4.20pm,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Matthew Bourne's Sleeping Beauty
Fri at 7.30pm - 10pm, Sat at 2pm - 4.30pm, 7.30pm - 10pm, £18.50 - £42.50
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

Stags And Hens
Fri at 7.30pm,
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE.
Call 01543 578762

Birmingham Royal Ballet: The Dream & A Month In The Country
Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at 2pm, 7.30pm, £10 - £26
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

COMEDY

Brian Conley: Alive And Dangerous
Thu at 8pm,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre, ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jimeoin: Yeehaa
Tue at 7pm,
Wolverhampton Slad Rooms, WV1 1RQ.
Call 0870 320 7000

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Seeing the funny side of treachery

Nicholas Farrell, Belinda Lang and David Robb in Single Spies, being staged at Birmingham Rep picture by Hugo Glendinning

TREACHERY has never been more entertaining than in Single Spies.

This double bill of comedies by Alan Bennett is being staged at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next week.

Single Spies runs from February 17 to 27 and is directed by Olivier Award-nominated Rachel Kavanaugh, the former artistic director of Birmingham Rep.

Bennett's award-winning espionage double bill is a pointedly satirical snapshot of two infamous spies, Guy Burgess and Anthony Blunt. Both rose to prominent positions in the British establishment but had been recruited as agents by the Soviet Union when students in the 1930s.

An Englishman Abroad chronicles actress Coral Browne's meeting with Burgess as he tried to adapt to life as a Soviet citizen in 1950s Moscow.

A Question of Attribution gives us a glimpse into Blunt's double-life as an art historian to royalty and a Soviet spy, which culminates in a sharp interrogation by the Queen.

An Englishman Abroad and A Question of Attribution stars David Robb – recently seen as Dr Clarkson in Downton Abbey – with Belinda Lang and Nicholas Farrell. Tickets are £13.50 to £35, see www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

It's Joe on Fast Forward

SINGER-SONGWRITER Joe Jackson will headline Birmingham's O2 Institute tonight (Thu) to promote his latest album, Fast Forward.

Staffordshire-born Jackson found fame in 1979 with Is She Really Going Out With Him? and It's Different For Girls, and had another major hit with Steppin' Out three years later. Now he is touring Europe with his first collection of original songs in seven years. The album was released in October 2 to a host of excellent reviews.

The tour kicked off in Dublin last week and will end in Berlin, Jackson's second home, in March. The career-spanning shows will feature Jackson as his own opening act. He will play a short solo/piano set before bringing out his full band.

Fast Forward was written in four cities: New York, New Orleans, Berlin and Amsterdam. Jackson says: "Mostly it was the musicians that drew me to those places rather than the places themselves, and a few of the songs were kind of obvious. I mean, like 'Kings Of The City' is definitely a New York song, 'If I Could See Your Face' is definitely a Berlin song, and 'Neon Rain,' I was thinking about New Orleans when I wrote it.

"You know, if anyone asked me to describe my new album, or how I feel about it or anything like that, I just say it's great. I mean, I have no guarantees that anyone else in the world is gonna think so, so I think it may as well start out with me thinking that."

Telegram kick off tour at Brum pub

LONDON band Telegram, the new darlings of the indie scene, will give local rock fans the chance to find out what the fuss is about at Birmingham's Hare and Hounds tonight (Thu).

Meanwhile, in the Kings Heath pub's other room that night will be fast-rising Mancunian indie rockers Spring King.

Brighton band Fickle Friends, fronted by singer Natassja Shiner, celebrate their new major label deal by playing Stourbridge River Rooms tomorrow (Fri). That's the same night the Kerrang! Tour rolls into Brum with Sum 41, Frank Carter & The Rattlesnakes, ROAM and Biters at The O2 Institute in Digbeth.

Illusionists ready to do the Impossible

SPECTACULAR magic show Impossible is bringing six top illusionists and magicians to the New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, from Tuesday to Saturday, February 20.

The show promises death-defying stunts, grand stage illusions and close-up magic. The line-up includes daredevil escapologist Jonathan Goodwin; from Britain's Got Talent, James More; Cirque du Soleil trickster Lee Thompson; London conjurer and break-dancer Magical Bones; mind reader Chris Cox; and former Young Magician of the Year Ben Hart.

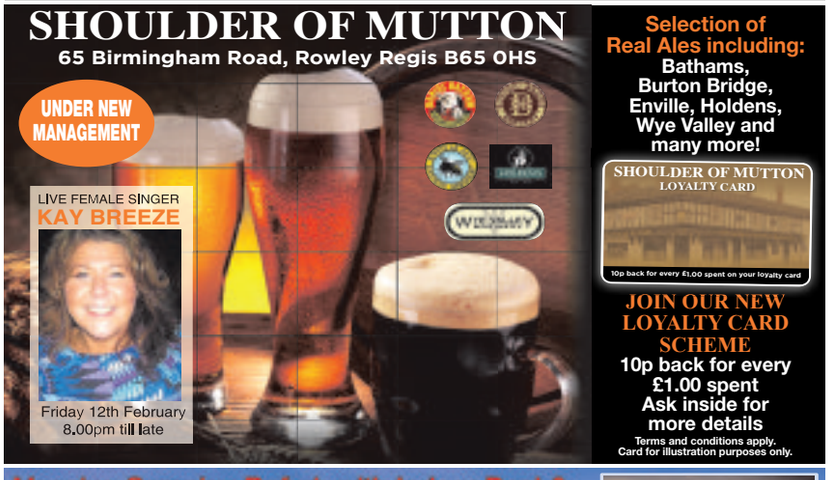
See www.atgtickets.com/birmingham for further details.

Classic rock and acoustic guitar

GRAHAM Bonnet, the voice of Rainbow's Since You've Been Gone, brings his band to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow (Fri).

There's a treat for Pink Floyd fans on Saturday at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham when Symphonic Pink Floyd will be performing Wish You Were Here plus a selection of other Floyd favourites with a 55 piece orchestra, to the backdrop of Fritz Lang's early sci-fi classic Metropolis.

The Counterfeit Stones play Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday. Acoustic fingerstyle guitarist Pete Kent is at the same venue on Wednesday, February 17.



Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, February 11, 2016

CHOICE

Ricky Wilson

The Voice UK (BBC1, 7.15pm)
Time is running out for Paloma Faith, Boy George, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson to build their teams, as the contest reaches the sixth and penultimate round of 'blind auditions'. This week, the superstar coaches hear from former UK Eurovision entrant Paul Phoenix, and Mike Berry, the former pop star perhaps better known for his work as an actor in Are You Being Served? and Worzel Gummidge. Also taking to the stage are rocker Rick Snowdon, who aims to impress with his unique voice, and Jordan Gray, who hopes to offer an inspiring example with her performance. Plus, 21-year-old Jolan from Cumbria, and Luton-based singer Mia Sylvester, both of whom have auditioned on The Voice in the past.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry's Foolproof Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Wales v Scotland (Kick-off 4.50pm).

6.55 BBC News.

7.05 Regional Programme.

7.15 The Voice UK. Rocker Rick Snowdon and would-be inspiration Jordan Gray take to the stage, along with former Voice auditionees Mia Sylvester and Jolan in the sixth round of 'blind auditions'.

8.30 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Hannah and Joe from Eastbourne, East Sussex, seek to win items from their personal wish list. Plus, Wet Wet Wet join Gaby Roslin for the all-important Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.20 Casualty. Valentine's Day arrives in Holby, and for Connie, the day brings a reunion with old flame Sam, who has returned from New York with Connie's estranged daughter Grace. The pair's arrival on the ED is no social call, though, as Sam's new girlfriend Emma has fallen critically ill, and requires urgent surgery. Ethan is furious at Cal for his deception, and as tensions rise to boiling point, the pair end up brawling in resus. Elsewhere, Big Mac becomes an overnight celebrity, Lofty struggles with the management element of his new job, and Max arranges a date with a woman who looks remarkably like Zoe. Medical drama, starring Amanda Mealing.

10.10 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Sunderland v Manchester United and Chelsea v Newcastle United; National Lottery Update.

11.55 Film: Meet the Parents. (2000) A male nurse makes a disastrous bid to impress his girlfriend's father – a former CIA agent who does not suffer fools gladly. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Ben Stiller.

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: Battle Cry. (1955) **8.45 Film:** The Desperados. (1969) **10.10** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **11.10** Natural World. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.45** Rick Stein's India. (R) **1.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **2.15** Holiday of My Lifetime with Len Goodman. (R) **3.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.45** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Earth's Greatest Spectacles. (R)

6.30 Back in Time for the Weekend. The Ashby-Hawkins family sample life in the 1960s and with more money to go around, there's more fun to be had. Dad Rob and son Seth take on football legend Trevor Brooking for a game of Subbuteo in the dining room, and Daisy and mum Steph meet Sandie Shaw to discover how the decade's daring fashions reflected the growing freedoms and confidence enjoyed by the younger generation. (R)

7.30 Henry VII: Winter King. Documentary in which author Thomas Penn examines the reign of the first Tudor monarch – from his victory at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 to his death in 1509. (R)

8.30 Dad's Army. A daring bid to rescue Walker and Godfrey from a stricken pumping station ends with Mainwaring and his whole platoon trapped and facing the prospect of drowning. (R)

9.00 The Real Marigold Hotel. The group enjoy the final week of their experiment in Jaipur and attend one of the highlights of the Hindu calendar, the Ganesh Chaturti festival. Last in the series. (R)

10.00 Live at the Apollo. Katherine Ryan comperes an evening of stand-up at London's Hammersmith Apollo, performing and introducing routines by guests Henning Wehn and James Acaster. (R)

10.45 Insert Name Here. Paul Hollywood, Kate Williams, Joe Lycett and Sara Pascoe join Richard Osman and Josh Widdicombe to answer questions about famous people who share a name. Last in the series. (R)

11.15 Film: There Will Be Blood. (2007) A prospector's single-minded pursuit of wealth leads him into conflict with a priest over control of an oil-rich town. Historical drama, starring Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Dano.

1.45 Film: Primeval. (2007) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Signed Stories. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Jessie. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Film:** Columbo: It's All in the Game. (1993) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **1.30** Judge Rinder. (R) **2.30** Tipping Point. (R) **3.30** Doc Martin. (R) **4.30** The Martin Lewis Money Show. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.30 New You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates more comical viewer-submitted videos, including an old lady cocooned in silly string, and a boy's unfortunate encounter with a pelican.

7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. The grand final arrives, and Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara invite the 15 most successful competitors to compete for the title of Ninja Warrior UK. Last in the series.

8.00 Take Me Out. Scott, a mannequin sculptor from London, Leeds-based dentist Keshav, Newcastle electrician Cory and Adam, a labourer from Bedfordshire enter the "love lift" in the hope of impressing Paddy McGuinness's 30 single women. However, to win a date they must first convince the female participants to keep their lights on as a sign of approval. Plus, Paddy provides an update on last week's couples from the Isle of Fernandos.

9.20 The Jonathan Ross Show. Sacha Baron Cohen joins Jonathan in the studio, in-character as Nobby, the star of his latest comedy outing Grimsby. Plus, Stephen Fry, Amy Poehler and Shawn Mendes.

10.20 ITV News; Weather.

10.35 Film: Twins. (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their unknown mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito.

12.30 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.35** Frostgun Invitational. **7.30** Tenerife Blue Trail. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newbury and Warwick. **4.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.00** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.25** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.00 Come Dine with Me. Businesswoman Tracy hosts the final dinner party in Weston-super-Mare. Her evening includes dance lessons, a black-tie dress code, and steak cooked to order. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on another waterway adventure, starting in the romantic city of Oxford, where they began their courtship many years ago. They follow the gentle contours of the Oxford Canal through the Cherwell Valley, where they meet novelist Philip Pullman and are joined by their son, fellow actor Samuel West. (R)

8.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. New series. The actress is in Devon and Cornwall as she explores more of the nation's smallest communities, visiting a former silver-mining village and a cliff-edge fishing village. Previously seen on More4.

9.00 Film: Escape Plan. (2013) Premiere. A security expert is framed for a crime he did not commit, and sent to an escape-proof prison of his own design. He hatches a plan to break out, but to succeed he will need the help of a long-term convict – who wants his own freedom in return for assistance. Thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

11.20 Film: Predator. (1987) Soldiers on a mission in a Central American jungle is stalked by an invisible alien hunter in search of human prey. Sci-fi thriller, with Arnold Schwarzenegger and Carl Weathers.

1.20 Hollyoaks. (R) **3.35** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.20** 1001 Things You Should Know. (R) **5.50** How I Met Your Mother. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **8.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **9.30** The Saturday Show. **11.30** Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.00** Now That's Funny! (R) **2.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.00** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)

6.00 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. The documentary focuses on two disputes that developed from complaints about noise-making. (R)

6.55 5 News Weekend.

7.00 World War II in Colour. A look at how Nazi U-boats' efforts to sever transatlantic supply lines and the Allied firebombing of German cities affected the course of the conflict as efforts were made to develop new weapons and strategies to bring a rapid end to hostilities. (R)

8.00 Nazi Quest for the Holy Grail. Documentary examining the story of the Nazis' mission to rediscover the lost Aryan race and retrieve their forgotten secrets – including the Holy Grail. (R)

9.00 The Championship: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's matches in the Championship, including Queens Park Rangers v Fulham and Reading v Burnley.

10.00 Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. Kelly Cates and George Riley present a round-up of all the goals and talking points from League One and League Two, including Coventry City v Bury and York City v Notts County.

10.30 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. The boyfriend of a missing woman implicates her ex-con neighbour – who Stabler helped put in prison 19 years earlier. Guest starring Stephen Rea. (R)

11.25 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler are called on to investigate when a man contacts the police after discovering a dead woman in his bed. Crime drama, starring Christopher Meloni. (R)

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R) **5.20** HouseBusters. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.20** Don't Tell the Bride **8.20** Top Gear **9.20 Film:** Meet the Fockers (2004) **11.10** Family Guy **1.00** Him & Her: The Wedding **3.30** The Revolution Will Be Televised **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 How Earth Made Us **8.00** Nelson's Caribbean Hell-Hole: An Eighteenth Century Navy Graveyard Uncovered **9.00** Trapped **10.40** Motown at the BBC **11.40** Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend **12.40** Sings Motown **1.40** Top of the Pops: 1981 **3.00** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.00 Ninja Warrior UK **12.00** Scorpion **1.05** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.35** You've Been Framed! Gold The Next Generation **2.35 Film:** Beethoven (1992) **4.25** Catchphrase **5.10 Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **7.05 Film:** The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **9.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.20** Secret Dates **11.20** Ibiza Weekender **12.20** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **12.50** Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands **1.50** Reality Bites **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.40 A Touch of Frost **1.50** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **4.00 Film:** Columbo: Last Salute to the Commodore (1976) **6.05** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Lewis **12.00** Blue Murder **1.35** Man About the House **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
12.30 Live Snooker Shootout **5.20** Storage Wars **6.15** Football's Greatest: Zinedine Zidane **6.30** Live Snooker Shootout **11.20 Film:** The Long Kiss Goodnight (1996) **1.45** River Monsters **2.40** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** The Goldbergs **1.30** The Jump **3.05** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Magic Mike (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Virtually Famous **2.10** The IT Crowd **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **3.45** Rules of Engagement **4.30** Revenge

Film4
11.00 Bugsy Malone (1976) **1.00** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **3.05** Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **5.00** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **6.55** Field of Dreams (1989) **9.00** Ted (2012) **11.05** Evil Dead (2013) **1.00** Intruders (2011) **3.10** Close

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CHOICE

Dylan Hartley

Live Six Nations Rugby Union
ITV, 1pm)
Italy v England (Kick-off 2.00pm). Coverage of the match from Stadio Olimpico in Rome, where the second round of fixtures is brought to a conclusion. England have never lost against the Italians, and when they last travelled to the Eternal City for a Six Nations encounter they recorded an emphatic 52-11 victory, scoring seven tries in the process. The Azzurri will certainly look to improve on that performance, and on their showing in last year's tournament as a whole, when they managed one victory over Scotland but were soundly beaten by the rest of the opposition, which included home losses to Ireland, France and Wales.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** The Truth About Fat. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.35** Nature's Miracle Orphans.

6.35 BBC News.

6.50 Regional Programme.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison explore the Norfolk Broads, meeting student gamekeepers, learning how to prepare venison, and discovering how a naturalist has helped cranes to return to the area after 400 years. Adam Henson visits a farm where egg production is being carried out on a massive scale. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. Dr Turner and Shelagh are at the forefront of the advances in medical technology, and begin a campaign to ensure better respiratory health for their patients. However, Timothy fears their own lifestyle is not good for them and tries to encourage his parents to give up smoking. Violet injures her back and is forced to leave the shop in Fred's hands, a decision that strengthens their relationship but which proves to have other, unforeseen consequences.

9.00 British Academy Film Awards. Coverage of the awards ceremony, hosted by Stephen Fry from the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden. Films in the running for awards this year are The Revenant, Ex Machina, Spotlight, The Danish Girl, Amy, The Big Short, Bridge of Spies, Carol, 45 Years, Amy, Brooklyn and The Lobster, while actors nominated for awards include Michael Fassbender, Eddie Redmayne, Cate Blanchett, Maggie Smith, Idris Elba, Christian Bale, Kate Winslet and Julie Walters.

11.00 BBC News.

11.20 Regional Programme.

11.30 Film: While You Were Sleeping. (1995) A train-station attendant poses as the fiancee of a comatose man, but ends up in a quandary when she falls for his brother. Romantic comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman.

1.05 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.30** The Secret History of the British Garden. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **11.45** The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.30 Film:** 84 Charing Cross Road. (1987) Romantic drama, starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. **3.00 Film:** The Importance of Being Earnest. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. **4.30** Cats v Dogs: Which Is Best? (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.15 Ski Sunday. Action from the women's downhill race at the World Cup event in Crans Montana, Switzerland, where American Lindsey Vonn will be the focus of much attention.

7.00 Six Nations Highlights. John Inverdale is joined by Lewis Moody and Jonathan Davies to present action from the second round of the 2016 championship, featuring France v Ireland at Stade de France, Wales v Scotland at Principality Stadium, and Italy v England at Stadio Olimpico.

8.00 Greece with Simon Reeve. Part two of two. Simon travels from the Peloponnese peninsula into the mountainous north of the country. He meets local people including a group of rebel monks and conservationists caring for an injured bear, and discovers how they are coping with the political crises affecting Greece.

9.00 Chinese New Year: The Biggest Celebration on Earth. New series. Series exploring new year celebrations in China, through the personal stories of people involved in traditional celebrations, as well as those whose livelihoods are dependant on the holiday.

10.00 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which were Arsenal v Leicester City, Aston Villa v Liverpool, and Manchester City v Tottenham Hotspur.

11.10 Film: Tron: Legacy. (2010) A man searching for his father is sucked into a computer-generated world and must compete in gladiatorial combat. Sci-fi adventure, starring Jeff Bridges and Garrett Hedlund.

1.05 Film: Steal. (2002) **2.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.20** Holby City. (R) **4.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.15** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.50** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.55** Sooty. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.15** Looped. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. **8.30** Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05** Scrambled!: The Tom & Jerry Show. (R) **9.25 Film:** Columbo: Murder with Too Many Notes. (2000) **11.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show. **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Off Their Rockers. (R) **1.00** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 2.00pm). **4.30** Big Box Little Box. (R) **5.00** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)

6.00 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather.

6.35 Planet's Got Talent. Unusual acts including an Indian contestant who gets run over by a steamroller, a Chinese yo-yo master and a dog that sings Whitney Houston songs. Narrated by Warwick Davis.

7.05 Beowulf: Return to the Shieldlands. A fearsome clan of raiders launches a surprise attack on Herot, and Beowulf has to come up with a strategy to outwit his enemies and protect his own tribe.

8.00 Vera. DCI Stanhope and her team, including new recruit DC Hicham Cherradi, travel to a remote country house when the woman looking after it is killed. No sooner have they arrived, than a second body is discovered. Vera discovers the two victims met the night before their deaths, and goes in search of a connection between them. Forensics evidence reveals that one was definitely present when the other died.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.15 Rookies. Documentary filmed over the course of a year following trainee officers in Lincolnshire Police. (R)

11.15 Premiership Rugby Union. Action from the 12th round of fixtures, including Northampton Saints v London Irish, Newcastle Falcons v Leicester Tigers, Sale Sharks v Exeter Chiefs and Saracens v Wasps.

12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **2.35 Film:** The Harry Hill Movie. (2013) Premiere. Comedy, starring Harry Hill. **4.20** The Simpsons. (R) **4.50** The Simpsons. (R) **5.20** Channel 4 News. **5.40 Film:** Mr Popper's Penguins. (2011) Family comedy, starring Jim Carrey.

7.30 The Jump. Davina McCall presents the third stage of the winter sports challenge as the celebrity contestants face their fastest challenge so far in the speed ski event. The losing competitor from each race will then have to take part in the Jump to decide which of them will be eliminated from the contest.

9.00 Deutschland 83. Double bill. Moritz receives a shocking order, and realises the extent of his superiors' paranoia when a training exercise in the West is mistaken for a preemptive attack. He returns to the East in a bid to prevent a war and finds himself an outcast on both sides of the Iron Curtain, but risks his life to save Yvonne from the Stasi. Ingrid comes to Thomas's rescue, and Alex is forced to confront his own demons. In German. Last in the series.

10.45 Film: Predator 2. (1990) A tough cop investigating a series of gruesome murders discovers it is the work of an alien that kills for sport. Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Danny Glover and Bill Paxton.

12.45 Embarrassing Bodies: Back to the Clinic. Christian Jessen, Pixie McKenna and Dawn Harper revisit patients from previous clinics to catch up with the state of their health. (R) **1.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.05** Undercover Boss USA. Catherine Monson, president and CEO of Fastsigns International, goes undercover to learn more about the manufacturing side of the company. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Handmade Treasures. In this bite-sized edition, Kirstie Allsopp competes in the Something New from Something Old competition at the Royal Wales Show, creating vintage paper jewellery. (R) **5.05** Beat My Build. Renovation challenge in which two builders are pitted against one another to overshadow their competitor's work and make the most profit from their project. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.05** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.15** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Pip Ahoy! (R) **8.00** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **9.00** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.25** LazyTown. (R) **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.25** The Championship: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.20** Goal Rush: Football League Tonight. (R) **11.45** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.45 Film:** Mr Holland's Opus. (1995) Drama, starring Richard Dreyfuss. **3.20 Film:** Housesitter. (1992) Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin and Goldie Hawn. **5.20 Film:** What a Girl Wants. (2003) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes.

7.25 5 News Weekend.

7.30 Film: Jumper. (2008) A man discovers he has the ability to teleport, a talent he cleverly exploits to rob banks undetected while living a life of luxury all over the world. However, he soon learns he is not the only one with this power – and that a secret society of religious fanatics is determined to wipe out him and all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen, Jamie Bell and Samuel L Jackson. Edited for language.

9.00 Film: Homefront. (2013) Premiere. A drug enforcement agent quits his job and relocates to a small town hoping to protect his daughter from the violent world he has to deal with. However, he is forced back into his old life when he finds his new home has a criminal underbelly dominated by a narcotics kingpin. Crime thriller, starring Jason Statham, James Franco and Winona Ryder. Edited for language.

11.05 Film: Revolver. (2005) A gambler is helped by two enigmatic loan sharks to exact revenge on his deranged former boss for landing him in jail. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham and Ray Liotta.

1.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Prison Brides. The phenomenon of weddings conducted inside prisons. (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.20** Great Scientists. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.10** The Voice UK **8.30** EE British Academy Film Awards: Red Carpet **9.00 Film:** Little Fockers (2010) **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad! **12.10** Family Guy **12.30** Russell Howard's Good News **1.00** Professor Green: Hidden and Homeless **2.00** Siblings **3.00** Murder Games: The Life and Death of Breck Bednar **4.00** Close

BBC Four
7.00 Horizon: Swallowed by a Black Hole **8.00** The Sky at Night **8.30** Canals – The Making of a Nation **9.00** Storyville: Decadence & Downfall – The Shah of Iran's Ultimate Party **10.15 Film:** Therese Desqueyroux (2012) **12.00** Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **1.00** Canals – The Making of a Nation **1.30** Rock 'n' Roll America **2.30** Sounds of the Eighties **3.00** Singer-Songwriters at the BBC **4.00** Close

ITV2
11.55 Take Me Out **1.05** Take Me Out – The Gossip **2.10 Film:** The Perfect Man (2005) **4.15 Film:** Legally Blonde (2001) **6.10** Catchphrase Celebrity Couples Special **7.15 Film:** Along Came Polly (2004) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** Love Fix **11.00 Film:** Forgetting Sarah Marshall (2008) **1.15** Release the Hounds **2.05** Planet's Funniest Animals **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
12.25 The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes **1.35** The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes **3.55** Lewis **6.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant **9.00** Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India **10.00** Mrs Biggs **11.00 Film:** The Constant Gardener (2005) **1.30** Ghostboat **2.45** A Touch of Frost **4.30** On the Buses **5.20** Judge Judy **5.45** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4
11.30 Pawn Stars **1.30** Live Snooker Shootout **4.15** Storage Wars: Texas **5.10** The Classic Car Show **6.15** Goals of the 90s **6.30** Live Snooker Shootout **9.20 Film:** Sudden Impact (1983) **11.45 Film:** Mercury Rising (1998) **2.00** Ax Men **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
12.30 Couples Come Dine with Me **2.30 Film:** Furry Vengeance (2010) **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Tattoo Fixers **11.00** Rude Tube **12.05** The Inbetweeners **1.10** The IT Crowd **2.10** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.55** The Inbetweeners **3.45** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Journey to the Center of the Earth (2008) **1.00** Pride and Prejudice (2005) **3.40** Anna Karenina (2012) **6.25** Twilight (2008) **9.00** Kick-Ass (2010) **11.15** Compliance (2012) **1.00** Wild Things (1998) **3.15** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Trespass, Channel 5, 11pm
A couple are held hostage in their own home by four masked criminals, who want the contents of their safe. The situation forces them to examine the secrets they are hiding from each other, while the criminals are also driven to reflect on the events that have set them on this course of action. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman. (2011)

TUESDAY
The Restless Breed, BBC2, 11am
A former secret service agent's son journeys to the frontier, hellbent on avenging his father's murder at the hands of outlaws. Western, with Scott Brady. (1957)

WEDNESDAY
Because I Said So, Channel 4, 1.05am
A meddling mother becomes increasingly worried that her youngest daughter, who has a string of short-lived relationships under her belt, is doomed to fail in matters of the heart. She places a carefully worded ad on the internet for a suitable man, but her interference results in a series of misunderstandings. Comedy drama, starring Diane Keaton. (2007)

Trespass, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY
The Wind and the Lion, BBC2, 11.10am
An American woman and her son are seized by a Moroccan chieftain in the 1900s, sparking an international incident. While President Roosevelt works on a plan to ensure their safe return, the hostage begins to sympathise with her captor's cause as they get caught up in a conflict with German forces. Period adventure, with Sean Connery. (1975)

FRIDAY
Backdraft, ITV, 11.10pm
The two sons of a fireman who died in the line of duty follow him into the profession. However, a feud develops between them because the elder brother is convinced his sibling is not up to the job - until a mission to uncover the identity of a serial arsonist gives him the chance to prove his worth. Action drama, starring Kurt Russell, William Baldwin, Robert De Niro and Donald Sutherland. (1991)

Cuba gets caught up in controversial case

Throughout most of 1995, the US was hooked by the lengthy, televised trial of OJ Simpson, the American football legend who stood accused of murdering his wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

It was even dubbed the 'trial of the century', which may seem a little overblown until you consider how the case seemed to raise much bigger questions than whether or not Simpson was innocent, touching on race and celebrity culture.

And it's becoming a talking point all over again thanks to the new drama series The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, which has been picking up rave reviews since it began airing in the US earlier this month.

Now the show is coming to the UK, although given the intense media coverage Simpson received back in the 1990s, some viewers may be wondering what there is left to say.

Luckily, the BBC has thought of that. Sue Deeks, Head of BBC Programme Acquisition, says: "I am so excited for BBC viewers to see this series. The People v OJ Simpson is a fascinating and totally absorbing dramatisation of a case seared into the public consciousness. It is a case that you might think you know all about – but believe me, you don't know the half of it…"

In particular, the series looks at the legal teams who were battling to either convict or acquit Simpson, showing how the prosecution's over-confidence, some shrewd work by the defence team, and the Los Angeles Police Department's history with the city's African-American community all played a part in the eventual verdict.

If the fascinating true-life story wasn't enough to hook you in, the series is executive produced by Ryan Murphy, whose previous credits include Glee and American Horror Story, and boasts an incredible cast, including Cuba Gooding Jr as OJ Simpson, and John Travolta and David Schwimmer as defence attorneys Robert Shapiro and Robert 'father of Kim' Kardashian.

The cast are all aware of the responsibility involved in portraying real-life characters, but they have chosen to approach it in different ways.

Selma Blair, who plays Kardashian's wife Kris, met her real-life inspiration, and struck up a friendship – Kris even volunteered to dig out her 1990s clothes for the actress to wear on screen.

Chief prosecutor Marcia Clark didn't make actress Sarah Paulson a similar offer – instead she apologised that Paulson was going to have to adopt her hairstyle, which came in for a surprising amount of comment during the trial.

However, one person who didn't want to meet their real-life counterpart was Gooding Jr. He told the New York Post: "I didn't reach out to [Simpson's] kids. I didn't reach out to him. I didn't want a definitive opinion of his guilt or innocence."

But he has said that the series has brought it home to him that whatever you believe, the Goldmans and the Browns still suffered a devastating loss, and should not be forgotten.

The first episode offers another reminder, as the victims' bodies are discovered. The LAPD quickly link the killings to Simpson, although his fame leaves them unsure how to proceed.

Cuba Gooding Jr stars in The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story, Monday, BBC2, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
The X-Files
Channel 5, 9pm
Mulder and Scully arrive at Nugenics Technology to investigate the suicide of a scientist , only to find that the department of defence has put the facility on lockdown. They uncover evidence that extreme genetic experimentation has been going on for decades, breeding subjects who possess unexpected and dangerous powers – and Scully begins to wonder whether Nugenics had anything to do with her own pregnancy 15 years previously. Sci-fi drama, starring Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny.

Crashing
Channel 4, 10pm
Anthony and Lulu look for Kate and while their search takes a number of unexpected turns, the object of their quest drowns her sorrows with Fred – who receives some valuable advice from Jessica. Colin and Melody attempt to get back to normal, until he suffers an unfortunate incident, and Sam's life begins to unravel as he lashes out at those closest to him. Comedy, written by and starring Phoebe Waller-Bridge, with Jonathan Bailey, Julie Dray, Amit Shah, Damien Molony and Louise Ford. Last in the series.

TUESDAY
It's Not Rocket Science
ITV, 8pm
Over the years there have been plenty of fun science strands, from Don't Ask Me in the 1970s, to more recent offerings such as Brainiac. Now ITV are unveiling their latest take on the genre, and with the presence of Ben Miller, Rachel Riley and Romesh Ranganathan, you know you're in safe hands. In the first offering, Olympic hopeful Adam Gemili races against a Red Arrow, Rachel travels through a wall of fire at 450 degree centigrade, and Ben uses the power of Joey Essex's brain to drive a car.

WEDNESDAY
One Child
BBC2, 9pm
It was announced last year that China was to end its one-child policy, but the decades-long law and its effects provide the starting point for this three-part drama. Mei (Harry Potter actress Katie Leung) was adopted from China as a baby, and has enjoyed a happy childhood in the UK with little knowledge of her roots. So, she's understandably stunned when a Chinese journalist contacts her to say that her birth mother needs her help because the brother Mei never even knew existed is on Death Row for a crime he didn't commit. Keeping the full extent of the story from her adoptive parents, Mei flies out to her birthplace, but the first meeting with her mother is not what she hoped for. Will she decide to stay and fight for her sibling anyway, and just what can a young woman with no connections or knowledge of a foreign legal system do to free him?

It's Not Rocket Science, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY
Big Dreams Small Spaces
BBC2, 8pm
It may not seem like it when you take a look out of the window to see yet another day of cold, wind and rain – but spring is almost upon us. Therefore it's time for many, if you haven't already, to get out in the garden. But what do you do if your land is a tad too small to create the ambitious outdoor setting you have always dreamed of? Well never fear, Monty Don is returning with a new series of the show in which he helps more amateur horticulturists transform their small or average-sized plots into something extraordinary. In Salisbury, newly engaged couple Glenn and Zoe want a new garden to produce flowers for their wedding. But unfortunately, their small, sloping plot seems completely unusable. Meanwhile, in Barnet, Monty gets to work on an overgrown allotment that owner Nighat wants to use as a site for keeping bees.

FRIDAY
Shetland
BBC1, 9pm
Dedicating an entire six-episode series to one story is working a treat. Usually, cases whip by in the blink of an eye, catering for viewers with short attention spans in the process. But this run of Shetland is more old-school, with time given to absorb what is happening as well as the subtleties of the tale and its characters. We're now looking forward to the penultimate edition, during which Perez must find a way to deal with what has happened to Tosh if he is to successfully conclude the case surrounding the deaths of Robbie Morton and Michael Thompson – but that proves to be far from easy.

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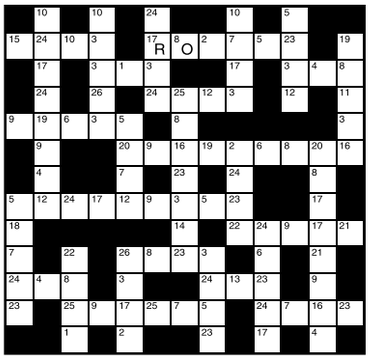
BRAIN GYM No.364

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
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11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Y	L	R	U	V	Z	M	P	E	W	G	H	C
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	O	T	K	F	A	B	S	I	N	D	Q	X

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

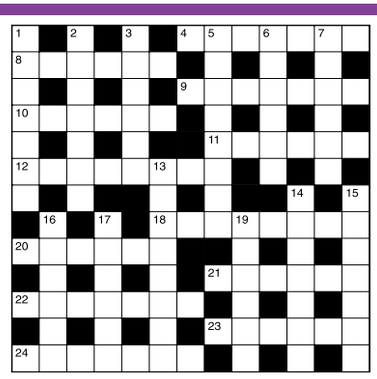
Cryptic Clues:

Across

4. Forsake an orchestra when playing (7)
8. Something to eat for a canine with a high temperature? (3,3)
9. Rib male - it's more soothing! (7)
10. Keep near it (6)
11. Presumably he won't let anything slip out (6)
12. Father takes hire charge in his fatherly role (8)
18. Roasting at the keyboard? (8)
20. Make headlong progress in one's job? (6)
21. Trivial insult (6)
22. Join devout company in plenty (7)
23. Ring the bells again - get rid of the law! (6)
24. Law they break becoming rich (7)

Down

1. He is in the wrong party to get proper treatment (7)
2. Monument about right height (7)
3. A proposal to get things moving? (6)
5. The difference between him and his workmates is striking (8)
6. A figure that makes one lose all feeling? (6)
7. The old boy got a look and did as he was told (6)
13. Comprehensive even if short and unrefined (8)
14. Circle to allow curl (7)
15. Imposing let-up in support (7)
16. Plea or word of honour (6)
17. Lie and contradiction (6)
19. Please become dead to the world (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

4. At mid-point (7)
8. Inhuman (6)
9. Insult (7)
10. Demur (6)
11. Riot (6)
12. Clerical residence (8)
18. Gap (8)
20. Lower (6)
21. Caress (6)
22. Sundry (7)
23. Hand-gun (6)
24. Quill (7)

Down

1. Pardon (7)
2. Theme (7)
3. Zodiac sign (6)
5. Abounding (8)
6. Enthusiasm (6)
7. Yearly (6)
13. Estrange (8)
14. Greed (7)
15. Aged (7)
16. Strict (6)
17. Obvious (6)
19. Foreign (6)

Sudoku

	7	2			1	3	5	
		1						
9	4			8			1	7
		3	4		6	9		
	1						2	
		9	1		2	4		
2	3			5			7	9
			8					
	9	6			7	5	4	

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

5	4	8	1	7	6	2	9	3
3	1	9	8	4	2	5	6	7
6	2	7	3	9	5	8	1	4
4	5	3	2	8	1	6	7	9
9	7	6	5	3	4	1	2	8
2	8	1	7	6	9	4	3	5
8	3	4	6	2	7	9	5	1
1	9	2	4	5	3	7	8	6
7	6	5	9	1	8	3	4	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Shop windows; 9 Eve; 10 Town-crier; 11 Sisal; 13 Raiment; 14 Clasps; 16 Regime; 18 Network; 19 Steed; 20 Spaghetti; 21 Bow; 22 Set to rights. Down: 2 Hoe; 3 Petal; 4 Inward; 5 Decline; 6 White wine; 7 Sea-sickness; 8 Written down; 12 Smart pace; 15 Prophet; 17 Skater; 19 Sling; 21 Bit. QUICK - Across: 1 Happy medium; 9 Rod; 10 Newspaper; 11 Appal; 13 Reserve; 14 Normal; 16 Attach; 18 Private; 19 Widen; 20 Eliminate; 21 One; 22 Undertaking. Down: 2 Aid; 3 Penal; 4 Mowers; 5 Deposit; 6 Upper hand; 7 Great-nephew; 8 Freethinker; 12 Perdition; 15 Avarice; 17 Depart; 19 Wreck; 21 Own.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. What is a cicatrice?
2. In which year did Enid Blyton die?
3. What is the northernmost of the four main islands of Japan?
4. What was Ho Chi-Minh city known as prior to 1976?
5. What nationality was the composer Georges Auric?
6. What sort of bridge is the Forth rail bridge?
7. What was the soldier Rodrigo Diaz de Vivar more commonly known as?
8. How many lbs in a cwt?
9. In which year did Edward VIII die?
10. Approximately how many million Model T Ford cars were manufactured?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 India; 2 Francois Truffaut; 3 A fish; 4 German; 5 Ernest Rutherford; 6 Port-au-Prince; 7 Nebuchadnezzar; 8 17th; 9 Mg; 10 1980.

Niner: DEPARTING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

957183 gives an entertainer,
123548 gives a clergyman,
4356788 gives a novice.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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28 MAY • WAR HORSE • MOTOWN • TOM JONES STORY
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2 DAYS £79.95
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SAT 26 MAR, 2, 30 APR, 21 MAY, 18 JUN, 9 JUL, 20 AUG, 3 SEP, 1 OCT

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20, 27 MAY	9, 30 MAY	27 MAY
17, 24 JUN	6, 13, 20, 27 JUN	17, 24 JUN
22, 29 JUL	4, 11, 18, 25 JUL	22, 29 JUL
5, 12, 19 AUG		5, 12, 19 AUG

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, February 11, 2016

On the move – travelling around by cable car

The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building

A must visit – cycle across the iconic Golden Gate Bridge

Streets are packed with different shops

Golden! Foodies will definitely leave their heart in San Francisco

Simon Penfold reports

IN the words of the great Tony Bennett, 'I left my heart in San Francisco'.

A flying visit will leave you breathless, from the sights, the tastes and from slogging up and down those famous hills.

Thank heavens for the equally famous trolley buses, which combine charm with practicality when getting around a city that is very well served for public transport.

There is just so much to see, from the Golden Gate Bridge and its park to Fisherman's Wharf, the shopping delights of Union Square, Haight Ashbury (home of the hippies) and Alcatraz, the famous island prison in San Francisco Bay.

And getting there from the West Midlands is a breeze, flying from Birmingham to New York's Newark Airport and then on to San Francisco itself with United Airlines. It takes about a day, and your body clock will be all over the place, but the flights are punctual and very comfortable indeed.

Travelling business class, with good food and seats that turn into beds, takes any pain out of the process.

Shopping

Book into a hotel and head off to check out the late night shopping in nearby Union Square – Bloomingdales, Macy's, Neiman Marcus, Saks Fifth Avenue – and a few local beers at Sam's Cable Car Lounge.

Quality food is a signature of San Francisco. This city has more restaurants per head of population than anywhere else in the US of A. It must be possible to find a bad meal in San Francisco, but I didn't.

And then there is the beer. America has discovered the joys of really good craft ale.

The food and drink is just part of what sets San Francisco apart from just about anywhere else in the United States. There's an individuality about the place.

Our hotel captured that individuality. The Sir Francis Drake is an opulent 1920s building just up Powell Street from Union Square. It has style and character as well as all mod cons, and its name is a reminder that the first Westerner to discover this place was the famous Elizabethan sailor. Presumably because of this links the hotel's doormen are dressed in beefeater outfits.

There is so much to see and do in this city that a visit to the websites run by Visit California and San Francisco Travel are a must. One of the most useful things you can do is sort out a CityPASS ticket booklet, which gives a week's unlimited use of cable cars and the local Muni transport system, access to attractions such as the Aquarium of the Bay and even a one-hour cruise of the Bay.

For any movie goer, of course, San Francisco is the city where Steve McQueen raced around the streets in Bullitt. And there's the windy Lombard Street with its eight hairpin bends that has featured in virtually every film ever made in the city.

Aside from the movies, there are hotels, galleries and places to go and stand and stare. One place that cannot be missed is Alcatraz. Boat tours run out to the island several times a day. One of the world's most legendary prisons, it is a gloomy and oppressive but in remarkably good condition considering the last prisoner left in 1963. On a brighter note you can hire a cycle and ride across the Golden Gate Bridge. The views are stunning and, in any visit to San Francisco, a visit to the bridge is a must.

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Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis

Beautifully presented, both internally and externally, this detached Bungalow is not one to be missed! Situated in a convenient and popular location on Buckingham Drive in Rowley Regis and briefly comprising: Two Bedrooms, Lounge with patio doors leading to the rear, Kitchen, Bathroom, Garage and Driveway. EPC: D

Offers over £155,000

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Silverthorne Avenue, Tipton

A deceptively spacious TWO bedroomed bungalow located on Silverthorne Avenue, Tipton. Having lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, garage and generous driveway PLUS rear garden. EPC: D

Guide Price £120,000

Brades Rise,Oldbury

GREAT LOCATION! This three bedroomed terraced property benefits from an excellent location close to local shops, transport links and schools. Having through lounge, kitchen, bathroom, spacious driveway and front and rear gardens. EPC: TBC

Offers Invited £115,000

Trafalgar Court, Oldbury

ATTENTION INVESTORS!! We offer FOR SALE a well maintained first floor studio flat having: Large living space,single garage, fitted kitchen and fitted bathroom. EPC: F

Offers around £29,950

Ascot Close, Oldbury

We are pleased to present this well-proportioned semi-detached property located on Ascot Close, Oldbury. Offering THREE bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom, and front and rear gardens. IDEAL FAMILY HOME! EPC: TBC

£124,950

Ashtree Road, Tividale

Paul Jacksons are pleased to present this delightful and spacious Semi-Detached TWO bed-roomed Bungalow maintained to a high standard throughout and being situated in a convenient and sought after location of Tividale, Oldbury. Viewing is highly recommend

Offers in region of £145,000

Throne Road, Rowley Regis

A THREE Bed-roomed Semi Detached property, taking advantage of a convenient location with close access to amenities, transport and motorway links. Having: Lounge, Kitchen,Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens and ample parking space. EPC: TBC

Guide Price £145,000

Zoopla.co.uk

PrimeLocation.com

Well-maintained property with an extended kitchen

A DELIGHTFULLY presented and well maintained semi-detached property with an extended kitchen, 149 Pool Lane, Oldbury is also well positioned for commuting.

It is for sale through Tom Giles at £154,950.

With a block paved driveway with parking for three/four vehicles and a large established rear garden, it has gas central heating and double glazing. The entrance hall has understairs storage; the lounge with a bay window has laminate flooring and dining room features French doors opening out to the rear garden.

An extended kitchen with light beech-effect units, upstairs are three bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite including a bath with a shower over. Contact Tom Giles on 0121 5526171 or visit www.tomgiles.net

First floor maisonette is less than £100,000

THIS delightful, two-bedroomed first floor maisonette in Tame Road, Oldbury is an ideal first time buy. It is for sale through Robert Oulsnam at £99,950.

It has a vestibule entrance, stairs, an entrance hallway, a storage cupboard, a lounge, a kitchen, two double bedrooms, bathroom, loft space, parking space and front and rear communal gardens.

The property is conveniently situated for access to Junction 3 of the M5 and the Hagley Road which lies just 0.4 miles away. Both Perryfields Primary School and Perryfields High School are nearby.

For further information contact the estate agent Robert Oulsnam on 0121 4299986 or visit the website at www.oulsnam.net

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Abbey Road, BEARWOOD,

Spacious end terraced property comprising, three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £199,950

Rathbone Road, BEARWOOD,

Superb home with many original features comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway. two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, loft room, shower room, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens.

Offers Around £194,950

Dale Street, SMETHWICK,

Spacious end terraced property comprising, entrance hallway, three reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, upstairs WC, D/G and C/H, front garden, rear parking

Offers Around £139,950

Waterloo Road, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, loft room. double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £115,000

Sydenham Road, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, rear garden. OFFERED WITH NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £105,000

Pargeter Road, BEARWOOD,

Terraced property comprising, vestibule, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, refitted breakfast/kitchen, three bedrooms, refitted upstairs bathroom, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. NO ONWARD CHAIN!

Offers Around £194,950

Shakespear Crescent, HOCKLEY,

MODERN DETACHED PROPERTY! The property comprises, hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, utility area, cloakroom, four bedrooms (master en-suite), family bathroom, garage, driveway, front & rear gardens.

Offers Around £225,000

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Shenstone Road, EDGBASTON,

A mid terraced property comprising, through lounge, re-fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, spacious upstairs bathroom, centrally heated, front and rear gardens. Ideal Investment Opportunity.

Offers over £105,000

West Park Road, SMETHWICK,

VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR THIS SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY IN THIS SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION, comprising, porch, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen/diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, refitted bathroom with separate

Offers Around £265,000

Harborne Road, OLDBURY,

Four bedroom extended semi detached property offering Four Bedrooms, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility Room, Family Bathroom, Fore & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, D/G & GCH where specified

Offers Around £229,950

Gillott Road, EDGBASTON,

Refurbished detached property comprising, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, wet room, conservatory, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, D/G, C/H, driveway, front & rear gardens. No onward chain.

Offers Around £209,950

Parkes Street, SMETHWICK,

A modernised terraced comprising, two reception rooms, open plan re-fitted kitchen, extended bathroom with separate shower, three bedrooms, double glazed, centrally heated, front & rear gardens. NO CHAIN

Offers Around £115,000

Corbett Street, SMETHWICK,

Terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, re-fitted kitchen, two double bedrooms, study, re-fitted bathroom, double glazed, centrally heated, rear garden. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE OR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Offers Around £109,950

Oakwood Road, SMETHWICK,

Mid terraced property comprising, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, two double bedrooms, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens. Ideal Investment or First Time Purchase!

Offers Around £106,995

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PROPERTY

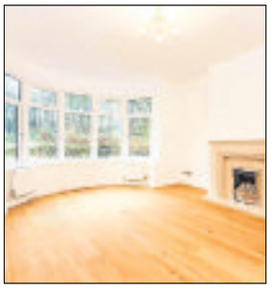
Fully refurbished home is beautifully presented

THIS fully refurbished five-bedroomed house in Barclay Road, Smethwick comes with three en-suites, a state-of-the-art kitchen and an extensive garden.

It is for sale through Connells at £475,000.

It has a driveway to the front providing parking for two vehicles, an entrance hall, downstairs WC, living room, dining room, kitchen, utility, five bedrooms, three en-suites and a bathroom.

For details contact Connells on 0121 4203611 or visit www.connells.co.uk



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EPC:B
Tipton
Bloomfield Road
- Modern town house
- Three/four bedrooms
- GCH & DG
- Landscape gardens
- Family bathroom & en-suite
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£695pcm

EPC: D
Wednesbury
Darby Road
- Three bedrooms
- Fitted kitchen with oven
- Separate dining room
- Bathroom with shower
- Rear garden
- Must be viewed!

£550pcm

EPC: E
Darlaston
King Edward Street
- Two bed end terraced
- Central heating and double glazing
- Rear garden
- Luxury tiled bathroom with shower
- Available immediately
- Great Bridge Office

£450pcm

EPC: E
Walsall
Wrexham Avenue
- Three bedroom semi
- Open plan kitchen diner
- UPVC double glazing
- Gas central heating
- Refitted bathroom
- Carpeted throughout
- Off road parking & garage
- Available immediately

£550pcm

EPC: TBC
Willenhall
Hawkswell Drive
- One bedroom semi bungalow
- Gas central heating and d/glazed
- Open plan lounge through to a fitted kitchen
- Luxury downstairs shower room
- Useful storage cupboard
- Double bedroom
- Two off road car parking spaces
- Available February 2016.

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EPC: TBC
Bilston
Hallgreen Street
- Attractive second floor flat
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- GCH & D/Glazed
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WEST BROMWICH

Allerton Lane
West Bromwich **£135,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner and an upstairs bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), a rear garden and off road parking for multiple vehicles. Internal viewing is highly recommended. EPC RATING D

Hall Green Road
West Bromwich **£300,000**

A very well presented & renovated 4 bedroom detached property briefly comprising, entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, utility, multi-function room, downstairs shower room, upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), large rear garden, off road parking for multiple vehicles, large garage. EPC RATING E

Roebuck Lane
West Bromwich **£145,000**

A three bedroom semi detached property in need of modernisation and briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs WC. The property also benefits from an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), off road parking, rear garage and front and rear gardens.●NO UPWARD CHAIN● EPC RATING E

Bridge Street
West Bromwich **£112,500**

A 3 bedroom Victorian style mid terrace property briefly comprising of a shared entry, hallway, two reception rooms, extended kitchen and downstairs bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing (where specified) and has gardens to the front and rear. ●NO UPWARD CHAIN.● EPC RATING D

Kempson Avenue
West Bromwich **£155,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of a porch, through lounge, kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs family bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), off road parking and gardens to the front and rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC RATING E

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Park Crescent
West Bromwich **£150,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, through lounge and kitchen, an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating and double glazing (where specified) and has gardens to the front and rear. ●INTERNAL VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.● EPC RATING D

St Christopher Close
West Bromwich **£250,000**

An immaculate and beautifully presented 5 bedroom detached property, offering double glazing, central heating (where specified), lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room, first floor bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive-way providing off road parking and garage. EPC RATING D

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Australia Park
West Bromwich **£POA**

- PHASE 2 AUSTRALIA PARK - COMING SOON
- A SELECTION OF BUNGALOWS & HOUSES (photo depicts phase 1)
- PHASE 1 COMPLETELY SOLD OUT!
- DON'T MISS OUT - CALL CONNELLS TODAY!!

Hawkins Street
West Bromwich **£138,000**

A well presented 3 bedroom semi detached property, briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, lounge and kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing, (where specified), off road parking, garage & rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN - EPC RATING D

Doulton Drive
Smethwick **£175,000**

A 3 bedroom modern style semi detached property, briefly comprising of an entrance hallway, downstairs WC, lounge,dining room and kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating, double glazing (where specified), gardens to front and rear, off road parking and a side garage. EPC RATING C

Crockford Road
West Bromwich **£115,000**

A 3 bedroom traditional style semi detached property briefly comprising of a porch, entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs bathroom. The property also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, (where specified), gardens to the front and rear and a rear garage. ●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● EPC RATING E

Ida Road
West Bromwich **£145,000**

A THREE BEDROOM end terraced property comprising porch, entrance hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS and a kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs family bathroom, central heating and double glazing (where specified), OFF ROAD PARKING, rear garden and rear outbuilding.●NO UPWARD CHAIN● EPC RATING D

Navigation Lane
West Bromwich **£133,000**

A very well presented 2 bedroom mid terrace property briefly comprising of a porch, lounge & kitchen. The property also benefits from an upstairs bathroom, gas central heating & double glazing (where specified), off road parking & a rear garden. INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED - EPC RATING D

Whitehouse Drive
Smethwick **£230,000**

A well maintained and well presented spacious semi detached property, briefly comprising of 6 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs guest WC, 2 family bathrooms, off road parking, garage and rear garden, central heating and double glazing. EPC rating C

0121 525 1177 westbromwich@connells.co.uk
3 Astle Park, West Bromwich, West Midlands B70 8NS

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URGENTLY WANTED!

Mr and Mrs S are actively seeking a

Two or Three bedroomed property in Tipton
Can you help
Call 0121 556 2338

Maple Leaf Road
Wednesbury
£159,950

A two bedroom semi detached bungalow with no upward chain. Comprises storm porch, lounge, kitchen, upgraded shower room, two double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, garage with off road parking. EPC Rating - TBC

Addenbrook Way
£269,950

Situated in a much sought after location VIEWING ESSENTIAL to appreciate this stunning executive four bedroom detached property briefly comprising of lounge, sitting room, conservatory, dining room (converted garage) re-fitted contemporary style kitchen and en-suite to master bedroom. EPC Rating D.

URGENTLY WANTED!

Mr and Mrs P are actively seeking a

Three bedroom property in Wednesbury within the Wood Green catchment.
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Star Close
£114,950

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Elizabeth Walk
£144,950

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OLDBURY

Wakeman Drive
Tividale
£250,000

EPC RATING C - An EXCELLENT opportunity to acquire this well presented MODERN DETACHED property in CUL-DE-SAC location. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TO APPRECIATE THE SIZE AND STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION ON OFFER●●

Moat Road
£210,000

EPC RATING E - A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY to acquire a detached bungalow on the ever POPULAR LOCATION of Moat Road, Oldbury which backs onto Barnford Park. Ideally located for access to rail links such as Langley Green Station and within the catchment of the NEW Q3 Academy High School in Oldbury.

Buckingham Road
£164,950

EPC RATING C - We are delighted to offer for sale this detached home situated in this POPULAR LOCATION with excellent access to all local amenities including good primary and secondary schools. ●●NO CHAIN●●

Trafalgar Road
£164,950

EPC RATING C - A traditional EXTENDED semi detached property set on large CORNER PLOT with the POTENTIAL for side or rear extension subject to appropriate planning permission with off road parking and garage. ●●VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to appreciate the size of the plot●●

Pavior Drive
Oldbury
£155,000

EPC RATING AWAITED - A stylish development of 14 NEW BUILD homes with 3/4 & 5 bedroom plots available. Located close to Sandwell & Dudley Railway Station, this development has excellent transport links and close to M5 Junction 2.

Silverlands Avenue
£154,950

EPC RATING D - A semi detached property situated in the SOUGHT AFTER location of Silverlands Avenue and briefly comprises kitchen, two reception rooms, three bedrooms, first floor family bathroom. The property is IN NEED OF MODERNISATION. Viewing is highly recommended to appreciate the POTENTIAL on offer.

Parkfield Road
£139,950

EPC RATING AWAITED - A TRADITIONAL semi detached home situated in this POPULAR location requiring some SYMPATHETIC MODERNISATION but offering good sized accommodation.

Titford Road
Oldbury
£125,000

EPC RATING E - A traditional three bedroomed semi detached property with large rear garden.

0121 552 2671 oldbury@connells.co.uk
70/76 Birmingham Street, Oldbury B69 4EB

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AUCTION
25TH FEBRUARY 2016

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at Aston Villa Football Ground

155 LOTS to include:

Saturday 13th February 10:45am

47 Lewis Street, Bilston
2 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Saturday 13th February 03:15pm

9 Ashfield Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Saturday 20th February 01:45pm

9 Tanfield Road, Dudley
4 Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
Guide: £59,000 - £69,000

Saturday 13th February 04:00pm

30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

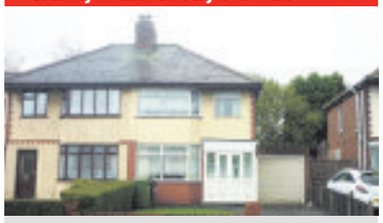
Saturday 20th February 10:45am

46 Newton Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Saturday 13th February 12:15pm

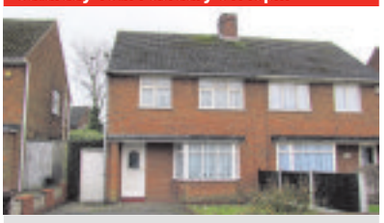
16 Windsor Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Saturday 13th February 10:00am



263 Deans Road, Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £39,000 - £44,000

Saturday 13th February 01:45pm



156 Hilton Road, Lanesfield
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 13th February 01:00pm

19 Veronica Av., Wolverhampton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £24,000 - £29,000

Saturday 20th February 02:30pm

2 Yew Tree Hills, Dudley
3 Bedroom Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 20th February 11:45am

20 Hereford Street, Walsall
2 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £19,000 - £24,000

Saturday 20th February 12:30pm

35 Wood Lane, Willenhall
4 Bedroom Link Detached House
Guide: £89,000 - £99,000

Saturday 20th February 10:00am

23 Harbeck Avenue, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 13th February 02:30pm

31 Langley Avenue, Bilston
4 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

Saturday 20th February 03:45pm

6 Ely Grove, Quinton
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
Guide: £49,000 - £54,000

Saturday 13th February 11:30am

11 Hickman Road, Bilston
3 Bedroom End Terraced House
Guide: £29,000 - £34,000

FURTHER VIEWING APPOINTMENTS ARE AVAIABLE. FOR DETAILS CALL THE OFFICE ON 0121 233 5046.

**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

CP BIGWOOD

Midlands' Leading Auctioneers

AUCTION

25TH FEBRUARY 2016

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155 Lots

To include properties on behalf of:

Birmingham City Council · Walsall Council · Sandwell · Canal & River Trust · Birmingham and Solihull NHS · Network Rail

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- Vacant Residential Properties
- Residential Investment Properties
- Vacant Commercial Properties
- Commercial Investment Properties
- Public Houses
- Land/Development Opportunities
- Garages Investment & Ground Rents

ENTRIES NOW INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

at Aston Villa Football Ground

21 Marsh Lane, West Bromwich
2 Bedroom End Terraced Property
Guide: £50,000 plus

12 Readers Walk, Great Barr
1 Bedroom Mid Terraced House
Guide: £74,000 plus

37 Tame Road, Oldbury
2 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £68,000-£74,000

30 Sycamore Road, Wednesbury
3 Bedroom Semi Detached Property
Guide: £39,000-£44,000

74 Briarley, West Bromwich
2 Bedroom Apartment
Guide: £20,000 - £24,000

46 Newton Road, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Detached Property Standing On Approx. One Third Of An Acre
Guide: £89,000-£99,000

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**Please note charges may apply in addition to the purchase price on some lots*

***For a definition of Guide Price & Reserve price please refer to our catalogue or website*

TOM GILES & CO

Oldbury
0121 552 6171

team

NEW — WEST BROMWICH

ALL SAINTS WAY
A spacious semi-detached house situated in a popular and convenient location in need of general updating and improvement comprising entrance hall, front sitting room, rear sitting room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, shower room. Central heating, double glazing, garden at rear with secure parking and detached garage. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW — OLDBURY

POOL LANE
Semi-detached house with the potential for extension subject to normal planning comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, understairs store cupboard, rear lobby, downstairs toilet, store cupboard, two bedrooms, bathroom. Central heating (where specified), double glazing, off road parking and large established rear garden. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW — OLDBURY

VICARAGE STREET
A well maintained semi-detached house warranting full internal inspection comprising entrance hall, lounge, dining kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom, central heating (where specified), double glazing, parking for two vehicles and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £114,950

OLDBURY

TITFORD ROAD
An opportunity to acquire a mixed Residential and Commercial premises comprising of detached family residence known as 'Providence Cottage' together with yard, detached stores/offices and a garage workshop currently trading as B&A Autos Motor Engineer. Residential property has three reception rooms, three bedrooms, utility/storage, kitchen, bathroom, outside W.C., central heating, double glazing. EPC Rating E
Offers in excess of £325,000

REDUCED — SMETHWICK

NAREL SHARPE CLOSE
A recently re-decorated modern detached property comprising canopied front entrance into hallway, cloakroom, three reception rooms, kitchen, five bedrooms with ensuite off master, house bathroom, central heating, double glazing, side garage, front and rear gardens. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £234,950

OLDBURY

TAYLOR WAY
A detached family residence built approximately 13 years ago by Bellway Homes. Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, ensuite shower and family bathroom, central heating, double glazing, garage and parking, rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £179,950

ROWLEY REGIS

THRONE CRESCENT
End terraced house offering good sized accommodation in need of general decoration throughout. Entrance hall, through lounge/dining room, extended kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, central heating, double glazing, driveway to front and established rear garden with detached garage at the rear. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £129,950

OLDBURY

PENSTOCK DRIVE
An opportunity to acquire a modern terraced house offering good sized accommodation comprising Entrance hall, kitchen, cloakroom, small understairs store cupboard, lounge, conservatory, two bedrooms, bathroom. Double glazing, central heating, parking and rear garden. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £122,500

OLDBURY

CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD
A well-maintained spacious semi-detached house comprising front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, rear lobby, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating, double glazing, front garden and established garden at rear. Ideal first time purchase or investment opportunity. EPC Rating D
Offers in the region of £114,950

WEST BROMWICH

LIVINGSTONE ROAD
An opportunity to acquire a modern end town house situated within a poplar sought after development. The accommodation comprises lounge/dining room, kitchen, stairs to two bedrooms, and bathroom. Central heating and double glazing, rear garden and parking for two vehicles. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £104,950

OLDBURY

ETHEL STREET
An opportunity to acquire a well presented end terraced property comprising front sitting room, lobby, rear sitting room, kitchen, rear lobby, bathroom, two bedrooms. Central heating, double glazing, established garden at rear. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating E.
Offers in the region of £99,950

WEST BROMWICH

PRINCES GATE
A first floor flat comprising communal entry phone entrance, staircase extending to first floor landing, metal entrance door to reception hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, electric heating and double glazing, allocated car parking space. EPC Rating C
Offers in the region of £84,950

WEST BROMWICH

HOLLYHEDGE ROAD
A former health and beauty premises. "L" shaped reception/waiting area, two treatment rooms, manicure & pedicure area, tanning room, cloakroom, kitchen and spray tanning area. Rear paved yard, external log cabin and portacabin. EPC Rating E
Price: £99,950

PUBLIC NOTICE

96 BASONS LANE, OLDBURY, B68 9SL
We are acting for the mortagees in possession and have received an offer of £120,000 for the above mentioned property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the Agent before exchange of contracts takes place. EPC Rating D

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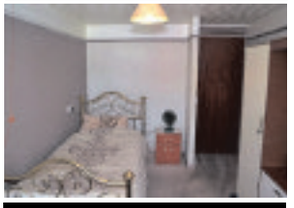
NEW

248 POUND ROAD, OLDBURY

- Freehold semi-detached
- 2 bedrooms (formerly 3)
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Poss. extensions to side & rear
- Two living rooms
- Utility
- Superb gardens
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : E
- Substantial side garage
- VIEWING A MUST

OFFERS BASED ON £219,950

NEW PRICE



8 MILTON COURT, BEARWOOD

- Warden controlled ground floor flat
- For the over 55's
- 1 Bedroom & lounge
- Kitchen & bathroom
- Communal gardens
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £42,950

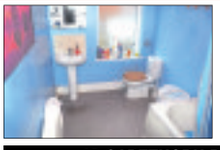
NEW

131 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD SOUTH, QUINTON

- Extended semi-detached
- Bathroom & separate WC
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- FOUR bedrooms
- Lounge & dining/room
- Laundry/utility
- Garage
- Garden with substantial store
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £220,000

NEW



48 CAPETHORN ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Traditional freehold end terraced property
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Two reception rooms
- Refitted kitchen
- ENERGY RATING: E

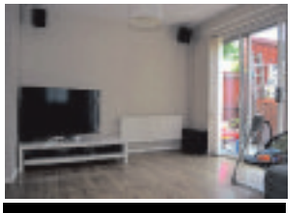
OFFERS BASED ON £114,950

NEW PRICE

77 GREENHILL ROAD, HALESOWEN

- Detached Dormer bungalow
- Popular location
- Open plan dining/kitchen
- Spacious lounge
- Two double bedrooms (one with en-suite shower room)
- Off-street parking
- En-suite cloakroom
- Two attic rooms
- VIEWING TO BE APPRECIATED
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £269,500



98 EDISON GROVE, QUINTON

- 50% SHARE
- 2 double bedrooms and Bathroom
- Kitchen/breakfast room
- Spacious lounge
- Off-street parking
- ENERGY RATING : C

ASKING PRICE £54,000

49 GREENFIELD ROAD, SMETHWICK

- Three bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Inter-communicating through lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Neatly laid out gardens
- Viewing to be appreciated
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

89 DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD

- 3 Bedrooms,
- Fully Tiled Refitted Bathroom
- Spacious Lounge
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Side Garage
- Well Stocked Neat Garden
- Off-Street Parking
- Inspection a must
- ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £294,950

DEREK SPIRES ESTATE AGENTS

PUBLIC AUCTION
AT
THIMBLEMILL RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
THIMBLEMILL ROAD,
SMETHWICK. B67 6NR
ON
MONDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2016
AT 6.30PM

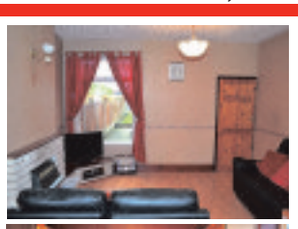
		Anticipated Price Range
Lot 1:	187 PARK ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5HX Freehold traditional 3 bedroomed end terraced in need of general refurbishment	£ 135 - 140,000
Lot 2:	8 SILVERTON ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 7QA Freehold 2 bedroomed centrally heated and double glazed terraced property	£ circa 70,000
Lot 3:	3 GOODE CLOSE, OLDBURY B68 9NT Modern ground floor studio flat needing improvement	£ 25 - 30,000
Lot 4:	280 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, SMETHWICK B67 6LS Freehold centrally heated 3 bedroomed semi, needing improvement	£ 140 - 145,000
Lot 5:	8 WEST HEATH ROAD, WINSON GREEN B18 4DL Freehold 2 bedroomed terraced with central heating and double glazing	£ circs 80,000
Lot 6:	132 FLORENCE ROAD, SMETHWICK B66 4QN Freehold 2 bedroomed terrace with central heating and double glazing, needing cosmetic improvement	£ 70 - 75,000
Lot 7:	25 MATH MEADOW, QUINTON B32 2NU Freehold modern town house being ideal investment opportunity	£ 70 - 75,000
Lot 8:	18 CHAPELHOUSE LANE, HALESOWEN B63 2JN Freehold centrally heated and double glaz SOLD Bungalow, requiring an upgrade	£ circa 90,000
Lot 9:	127 MILCOTE ROAD, BEARWOOD B67 5BQ Freehold 3 bedroomed villa needing modernisation	£ 130 - 135,000

Purchasers are advised to check with the Auctioneers as to the availability of the Lots prior to sale

36 PARKFIELD ROAD, OLDBURY

- Recently refurbished to high standard
- 3 bedrooms
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Through lounge/dining room
- Downstairs cloakroom
- Superb extended kitchen
- Off-street parking for 3 cars
- ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950



54 TALBOT ROAD, BEARWOOD

- Ideal FTBs
- Mid-terraced villa
- Three bedrooms
- Through lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Fully tiled bathroom
- Neatly laid out garden
- ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £129,950

16 ROSLYN CLOSE, SMETHWICK

- Two double bedrooms
- First floor bathroom
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen
- Gardens front and rear
- Needs cosmetic improvement
- ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950

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46 LEWIS STREET, TIPTON

79 DUDLEY ROAD WEST, TIVIDALE, OLDBURY

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to be held at The Aston Villa Football Club

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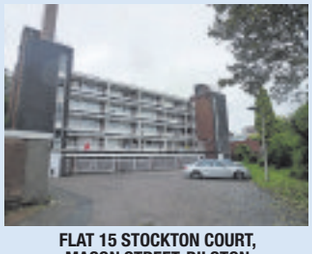
6 GREEN STREET, SMETHWICK

68 BLANDFORD ROAD, QUINTON

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE. 153 MILLFIELDS ROAD, ETTINGSHALL


FLAT 15 STOCKTON COURT, MASON STREET, BILSTON

FLAT 9 STOCKTON COURT, MASON STREET, BILSTON

7 GREEN STREET, SMETHWICK

26 BELLE VUE ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

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Internal photographs of a typical Kier showhome. CGI of The Ludworth 2 bedrrom home at Park View. Elevations and finishes may vary.*Help to Buy is available upon request subject to terms and conditions. **Calls cost 2p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.

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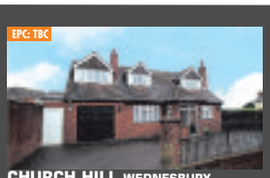
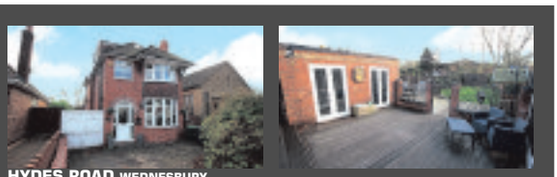


CHURCH HILL WEDNESBURY
- INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED & BUILD DETACHED
- PRIME LOCATION IN SOUGHT AFTER ADDRESS
- FOUR FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS AND SHOWER ROOM
- FOUR GROUND FLOOR ROOMS & BATHROOM
- KITCHEN, LAUNDRY, SUN/DAY ROOM, THROUGH LOUNGE/DINER
- STUDY AND SITTING ROOM

£325,000

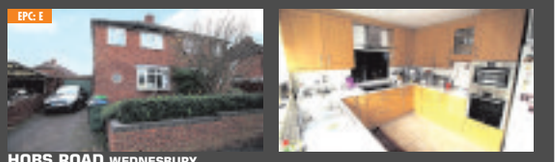


HYDES ROAD WEDNESBURY
- ENLARGED FOUR BEDROOM DETACHED
- FAMILY ROOM OVERLOOKING GARDEN
- THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING
- THREE FIRST FLOOR BEDROOMS
- ATTIC BEDROOM WITH ENSUITE
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£275,000

WESTMORE WAY WEDNESBURY
- FIVE BEDROOMS
- DETACHED HOUSE
- CUL DE SAC LOCATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN
- VACANT POSSESSION

£220,000

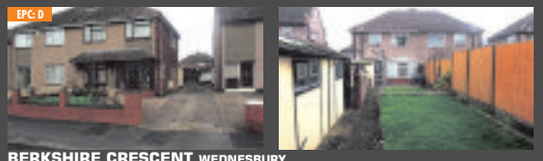


HOBS ROAD WEDNESBURY
- ATTRACTIVE SEMI IN SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
- THREE WELL PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- RE FITTED KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS WC
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- CENTRALLY HEATED
- OFF ROAD PARKING & CAR PORT

£149,950

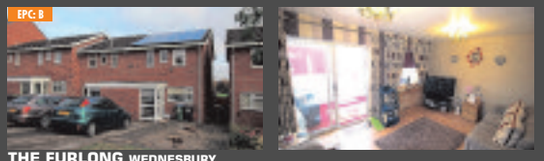
CRAMP HILL DARLASTON
- MODERN THREE STOREY SEMI
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- EN SUITE
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- QUIET LOCATION CLOSE TO VILLAGE CENTER
- CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING

£134,950



BERKSHIRE CRESCENT WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
- IDEAL FAMILY HOME
- SHARED DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE
- CONSERVATORY
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- CENTRALLY HEATED
- VACANT POSSESSION

£134,950



THE FURLONG WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- SEMI-DETACHED
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- DINING KITCHEN
- CONSERVATORY
- OFF ROAD PARKING

£129,950

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DOE BANK ROAD TIPTON
- TRADITIONAL STYLE SEMI DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- OFF-ROAD PARKING FOR TWO CARS

Offers £124,950

ROUGH HAY ROAD DARLASTON
- WELL PROPORTIONED END TOWN HOUSE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- EXTENDED KITCHEN
- DETACHED GARAGE

£124,950

DARBY ROAD WEDNESBURY
- THREE BEDROOM MID TERRACE
- TWO RECPTION ROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZED
- VACANT POSSESSION

£120,000

GRIFFITHS ROAD WEST BROMWICH
- THREE WELL PROPORTIONED BEDROOMS
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- KITCHEN & REFITTED SHOWER ROOM
- DOUBLE GLAZED AND CENTRALLY HEATED

£119,950

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COLES LANE WEST BROMWICH
- THREE BEDROOM END TOWN HOUSE
- REQUIRES MODERNISATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- CONDENSING CENTRAL HEATING

£105,950

BASSETT ROAD WEDNESBURY
- EXTENDED END TOWN HOUSE
- THREE DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE/LARGE DINING KITCHEN
- VACANT POSSESSION

£102,995

BEECH CRESCENT WEDNESBURY
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- SEMI-DETACHED
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- OFF ROAD PARKING

£99,950

BAGNALLS WHARF WEDNESBURY
- TOP FLOOR APARTMENT
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- CANAL SIDE LOCATION
- BALCONY WITH CANAL VIEW

£89,950

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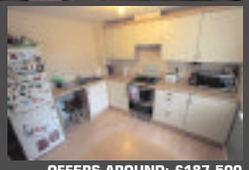
NEW

TIPTON HORSELEY HEATH
- Modern 3/4 Bed End Of Terrace Town House
- Lounge & Diner Area
- Kitchen & Diner Area
- Study/Bedroom Four
- Third Bed Having En-Suite Facilities
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Separate Semi Detached Garage To Rear
- Off Street Parking For Several Vehicles
- Central Heating & UPVC Double Glazing



OFFERS AROUND: £187,500

NEW

TIPTON PUDDLERS DRIVE
- Modern Four Bed Semi Detached Town House
- Three Storey
- Spacious Lounge
- Integrated Kitchen/Diner
- En-suite From Master Bedroom
- Second Floor Family Bathroom & Ground Floor WC
- Utility Room
- Integral Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £164,950

NEW

TIPTON OVAL ROAD
- A Spacious Three Bed Modernised Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge Area
- Fully Integrated Contemporary Kitchen Diner
- Store Room/Lean To (To Side Of The Property)
- Part Brick Conservatory
- Three Good Sized Bedrooms
- Contemporary Styled Upstairs Family Shower Room
- Off Street Parking For Two Vehicles Via Gated Access

OFFERS AROUND 137,500

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DY4, B70, B71 or B69?

Are you on the Market currently and not sold?

Call the agent Successfully Selling in your area for your

FREE VALUATION!!

NEW

WEST BROMWICH OAKWOOD STREET
- Three Bed Traditional Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £109,950

REDUCED

TIPTON BELL STREET
- Three Bed Modern Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Ensuite To Master
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950

TIPTON BAKER STREET
- Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Block Paved Drive & Garage
- Double Glazed & Gas Fired Central Heating
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000

REDUCED

TIPTON SALTER ROAD
- Well Maintained Two Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Downstairs Family Bathroom
- Two Good Sized Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking For Two Vehicles
- Larger Than Average Rear Garden
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £94,950

TIPTON HEATH CLOSE
- Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Through Lounge & Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Upstairs Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Street Parking
- Garage With Reinforced Roof For Extension
- Double Glazing

OFFERS AROUND: £124,950

TIPTON SCOTT STREET
- Modern First Floor Two Bed Apartment
- Fully Integrated Modern Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- En-Suite To Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing & Storage Heating
- Communal Gardens
- Allocated Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950

WEST BROMWICH OLD MEETING STREET
- First Floor Two Bed Modern Apartment
- No Upward Chain
- Allocated Parking For One Vehicle
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Central Heating
- Nicely Presented

OFFERS AROUND: £84,950

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Wednesbury	Tipton	West Bromwich	Willenhall	Walsall	Bilston
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Robert Road, Tipton

- Spacious Family Home
- New Gas Central Heating ● No Upward Chain
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Excellent Corner Plot
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
Viewing:

Oxford Way, Tipton

- Modern Semi Detached
- Excellent Location ● No Upward Chain
- UPVc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Tozer Street, Tipton

- End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- 3 Bedrooms, CASH OFFER ONLY

OFFERS AROUND: £64,950
Viewing:

Wake Green Road, Tipton

- Purpose Built First Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- Ideal Purchase or buy to let investment
- 1 Bedroom, EPC F

OFFERS AROUND: £50,000
Viewing:

Arthur Road, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● No Upward Chain
- Good Location
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
Viewing:

Jevons Drive, Tipton

- Modern 3 Storey Semi Detached Town House
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Spacious Family Accommodation
- 4 Bedrooms, EPC B

OFFERS AROUND: £152,950
Viewing:

Myrtle Terrace, Tipton

- Attractive Modern Link Detached
- Extended Accommodation ● Garage Conversion
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £159,950
Viewing:

Claypit Lane, West Bromwich — NEW

- New Property
- 3 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Master with Ensuite
- , Fitted Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £175,000
Viewing:

Ardav Road, West Bromwich

- Mid Terrace Property
- 3 Bedrooms
- Lounge / Diner
- , Kitchen

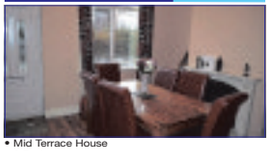
OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Navigation Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Lounge
- , Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

Bromford Lane, West Bromwich — NEW



- Mid Terrace House
- 2 Bedrooms
- 2 Reception rooms
- , Kitchen, Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

St James Road, Oldbury

- Modern Semi Detached
- Ideal Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £130,000
Viewing:

Oakley Avenue, Tipton

- Attractive Extended Semi Detached
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Extended To Side ● Viewing Recommended
- , 3 Bedrooms

OFFERS AROUND: £136,000
Viewing:

Davey Road, West Bromwich

- Purpose Built First Floor Flat
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- Good Condition
- 2 Bedrooms, EPC D

OFFERS AROUND: £66,950
Viewing:

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Call your local branch today for a

free valuation!

Florence Road, Tipton

- End Terrace
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Gas Central Heating
- In need of Attention ● No Upward Chain
- 3 Bedrooms,

OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
Viewing:

Cranmore Close, Tipton

- Semi Detached Family Home
- Upvc Double Glazing ● Electric Heating
- Quiet Cul De Sac Location
- 3 Bedrooms, EPC E

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

PUBLIC NOTICE

Holyhead Road

Public Notice
253 Holyhead Road Wednesbury WS10 7DQ.
We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £111,000. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the seling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC rating D.

Old Meeting Street, West Bromwich

- First floor apartment
- 2 Bedrooms
- Open plan kitchen / living area
- , Balcony

OFFERS AROUND: £80,000
Viewing:

Adelaide Avenue, West Bromwich

- Extended Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- , Garage to Rear

OFFERS AROUND: £133,900
Viewing:

Herbert Street, West Bromwich

- Deceptively Spacious Property
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing, Loft Room

OFFERS AROUND: £140,000
Viewing:

Heath Lane, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Upstairs Bathroom
- , Off Street Parking

OFFERS AROUND: £116,000
Viewing:

Westmorland Road, West Bromwich

- Semi Detached
- 2 Bedrooms
- Hall, Lounge / Diner
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £115,000
Viewing:

King Street, Wednesbury

- Modern End Terrace Home
- Master Bedroom With En-Suite
- Two Further Bedrooms
- , Lounge & Kitchen With Dining Area

OFFERS AROUND: £139,950
Viewing:

Mcdougall Road, Wednesbury

- Spacious Semi Detached Home
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge & Kitchen
- , Ground Floor Bathroom

OFFERS AROUND: £125,000
Viewing:

Hawkswood Drive, Wednesbury

- Modern Style Semi Detached Residence
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge & Contemporary Style Kitchen
- EPC Rating: D, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950
Viewing:

Magnolia Drive, Walsall

- Modern First Floor Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge & Modern Kitchen
- , Bathroom With White Suite

OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
Viewing:

Lily Street, West Bromwich

- Ground Floor Flat
- 1 Bedroom
- Lounge
- , Kitchen

OFFERS AROUND: £44,950
Viewing:

Hydes Road, West Bromwich

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Energy Rating TBC, Conservatory

OFFERS AROUND: £199,950
Viewing:

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NEW

Gladys Road, Bearwood

- Ideal First Purchase
- Beautifully Styled Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Contemporary Bathroom
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £122,500

NEW

Merrivale Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- Ideal First Purchase
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £114,950

NEW PRICE

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Stylish Mid Terrace
- Refurbished 2015
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Stunning Kitchen
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £229,950

NEW PRICE

Parkhill Road, Smethwick

- Traditional Terrace Property
- Three Double Bedrooms
- Ideal Investment
- Well Maintained Garden
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £104,950

Park Road, Bearwood

- Refurbished Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £189,950

Dog Kennel Lane, Oldbury

- Attractive & Extended Semi
- Ideal Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £209,950

Stony Lane, Smethwick

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £129,950

Topsham Road, Smethwick

- Well Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Bathroom
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £109,950

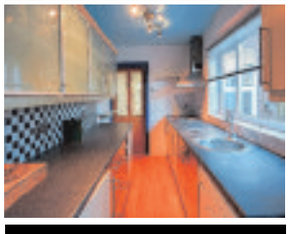
NEW

Lightwoods Hill, Bearwood

- Traditional Semi Detached
- Five Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Requires Modernisation
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £329,950

NEW



Hagley Road West, Oldbury

- Traditional Mid Terrace
- Ideal Investment/1st Purchase
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating F

Offers in the region of £129,950

NEW

Park Road, Bearwood

- Charming & Spacious Terrace
- Three Bedrooms
- Through Lounge
- Useful Loft Space
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £174,950

NEW

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Period Features
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

NEW PRICE

Milton Court, Sandon Road, Smethwick

- Attractive Retirement Apartment
- Situated on the First Floor
- One Double Bedroom
- Residents Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating C

Offers in the region of £49,950

Apsley Road, Oldbury

- 23rd Feb at 12 Noon
- Semi Detached Property
- Requires Modernisation
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- EP Rating F

Guide Price £75,000 - £85,000

Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury

- Well Presented Detached Family Home
- Three Reception Rooms
- Five Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £339,950

Vernon Road, Oldbury

- Traditional Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Two Double Bedrooms
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £89,950

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Sales & Lettings

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NEW

MANOR LANE, HALESOWEN

●●NO UPWARD CHAIN●● SPACIOUS traditional style semi with GARAGE - SOUGHT AFTER LAPAL ADDRESS. Lounge, separate dining room, breakfast room and kitchen extension. 3 bedrooms & bathroom. Set back from the road - REAR GARDEN WITH SOUTHERLY ASPECT. In need of updating and improvement. UPVC DBG, EPC Rating TBC.

QUINTON **£220,000**

NEW

WIMBOURNE ROAD, EDGBASTON

Well proportioned 3 BED (POTENTIALLY 4 BED) intermediate family home, HANDY FOR BIRMINGHAM CITY CENTRE, gch & dg, offering 3 RECEPTION ROOMS, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, shower room (PREVIOUSLY BED 4), bathroom, rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC rating E.

BEARWOOD **£150,000**

NEW

SALOP ROAD, OLDBURY

2 DOUBLE bedroom home (previously 3 bed) with GOOD SIZED REAR GARDEN and OFF ROAD PARKING, dg & gch, having spacious lounge, SUPER RE-FITTED BREAKFAST KITCHEN (with integrated appliances), BATHROOM, shower room. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC tbc.

BEARWOOD **£114,950**

NEW

MAPLE ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO CHAIN - MODERNISED terraced home with 2 reception rooms, 17ft REFITTED kitchen & REFITTED bathroom with white suite. 3 bedrooms & WC on 1st floor. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. Lawn garden to rear with SOUTHERLY aspect. EPC rating: TBC

QUINTON **£129,950**

FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN

●●● OPEN DAY 20TH FEBRUARY 10.30 TO 11.30 AM - CALL AGENTS FOR MORE DETAILS
●●● EXTENDED semi-detached home with DRIVEWAY in CUL-DE-SAC position. NO UPWARD CHAIN. L-shaped large lounge diner & REFITTED kitchen. 3 bedrooms & REFITTED bathroom. Part GARAGE & parking to the front. Lawn garden to rear with SE aspect. GCH & DG fitted. EPC rating:

QUINTON **£169,950**

ABBEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED home overlooking WARLEY WOODS park with GARAGE & driveway. 15ft dining room & 17ft lounge leading to EXTENDED 14ft kitchen. 3 GOOD size bedrooms & bathroom with white suite. Lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: F

BEARWOOD **£219,950**

MARSHALL STREET, SMETHWICK

EXTREMELY SPACIOUS, modern semi detached, offering flexible living accommodation, with double glazing, gas radiator heating, Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), delightful lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, 5 BEDROOMS (originally 6), MASTER WITH SHOWER ROOM EN-SUITE, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. EPC C.

BEARWOOD **£235,000**

SHENSTONE VALLEY RD, HALESOW-

LARGE family home with 5 DOUBLE bedrooms on private CORNER PLOT. 2 large reception rooms lead to CONSERVATORY. REFITTED breakfast kitchen & utility room. Master bedroom having EN-SUITE. Family bathroom with corner bath. DOUBLE garage & driveway. PRIVATE rear garden with patio. EPC rating: C

QUINTON **£424,995**

KENELM COURT, ROMSLEY

Superbly appointed DETACHED BUNGALOW. Occupying CUL-DE-SAC position within sought after VILLAGE. REFITTED kitchen. Lounge/dining room over looking gardens. OFF ROAD PARKING & enclosed rear garden with patio. 2 bedrooms & bathroom. EPC RATING: C

QUINTON **£169,950**

PRIMROSE BANK, OLDBURY

Spacious semi detached property, occupying a pleasant CUL-DE-SAC position with NO UPWARD CHAIN, having gas radiator heating, having Entrance hall (with downstairs wc off), spacious lounge, dining area, kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 BEDROOMS, bathroom, GARAGE, rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D.

BEARWOOD **£130,000**

KINSEY ROAD, SMETHWICK

LARGE TOP FLOOR apartment with 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & study area. Having 14ft lounge diner leading to study area & FITTED kitchen. EN-SUITE shower room off bedroom one. Main bathroom also with a white fitted suite. ALLOCATED parking. UPVC DG & electric heating fitted. EPC rating: D

BEARWOOD **£120,000**

FRANCIS ROAD, SMETHWICK

SPACIOUS, 2 DOUBLE bed semi detached property, conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having majority DG,CEntrance vestibule, attractive lounge, breakfast kitchen, D/S WC, UPSTAIRS bathroom, and pleasant well maintained rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F.

BEARWOOD **£115,000**

ROWAY LANE, OLDBURY

SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY with well proportioned accommodation, gas radiator heating, double glazing, having Entrance vestibule, SPACIOUS THROUGH LOUNGE/DINING AREA, kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 BEDROOMS, pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC rating D.

BEARWOOD **£107,500**

Three-bed modern house situated in a cul-de-sac

FOR sale with no chain, this three-bedroomed modern property in Park Avenue, Tipton lies in a cul-de-sac location and has an asking price of £120,000. The double glazed and gas centrally heated property has an entrance porch, hallway, lounge/diner, and fitted kitchen with light beech-effect units and contrasting working surfaces and splash-back tiling to the ground floor. Upstairs a landing leads to three bedrooms and a bathroom. Contact Your Move on 01384 455000 or visit www.your-move.co.uk

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KEMPSON AVENUE, B71 1DH

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
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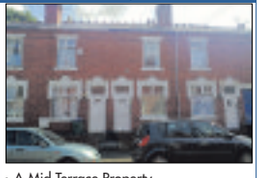

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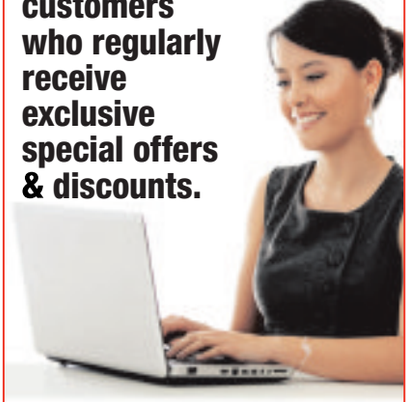

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

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Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

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5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

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commercial premises sale / let

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6 Property

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

MOBILE HOME Ivy Cottage Mobile Home Park, Hopton. Bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, lounge, DG, CH, £95p/w. No DSS. 07799 392439 or 07900 110622.

ONE BED FLAT Willenhall Town Centre. £90pw. Deposit required. No texts. 07976 781003.

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Wolverhampton Call 01902 489901

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£250,000 to £300,000.
Must be in Cannock area.
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7 Jobs

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recruitment feature

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SENIOR SUPPORT: Applicants should have 2 years minimum experience & NVQ level 3 or be working towards this qualification. Salary £8.00 per hour.

SUPPORT WORKERS DAYS: We currently have vacancies for daytime support workers who will also be required to cover 1 sleepover per week, no experience is necessary as training will be provided. Salary £6.80 per hour.

Applications can be completed online either @beasupportworker.co.uk or inshoresupportltd.co.uk, and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All pages need information to be supplied. Or alternatively call Stephanie on 01384 421460 for an application form and job description.

8 Motoring

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KIA PICANTO 1.1, 5 speed, Sept 2011, 5 door, blue, under 8,000 miles, 2¾ years warranty. Offers around £4,500. 01543 671019.

MITSUBISHI ASX 3 1.6. Diesel. 5-dr, 61 reg, in grey. 54,000 miles. Brand new spare wheel. Quality car. £8,995. 07941 148932.

MITSUBISHI COLT 2008, 61,000 miles, blue, electric windows, A/C, MoT, alloys, CD, dual fuel, LPG £2,950 ono 07967 680197.

MITSUBISHI SHOGUN, 2006.1 lady owner from new. 186,000 miles hence price. Silver metallic. MoT. towbar. Very good condition. £3,500 ono. 01902 686801.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

FORD FOCUS 1.6LX, hatch, 05 reg., 83,900 miles, red, alloys, p.a.s. cd, air con c/l, MoT January 2017. £995. 07984 715346.

FORD FOCUS Ghia, W reg, 2.0, 4-dr, 136k miles, clean, reliable, new battery, good tyres, MoT May 2016, £275. Stafford 07792 042730.

MERCEDES BENZ C180.
Elegance SE.
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9 months MoT, service history.
Bargain £1,400
01543 424719
07790 884466.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2, 02, 3-dr, met green, MoT Aug, alloys wheels, good tyres, engine problem, hence £150 ono. 07766 272429.

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classic cars

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Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
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or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

JOHN THOMAS PAINTER
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 175 Thimblemill Road, Smethwick, West Midlands B67 6LR, who died on 02/08/2015, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 12/04/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Chorus Law as Attorney for the Personal Representative, Heron House, Timothy's Bridge Road, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9BX.

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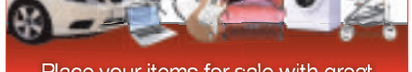

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public & legal notices

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 1, SANDWELL)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) intends to make an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, to allow gully cleansing and associated repairs to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close:
(1) the northbound carriageway of the M5 from its junction with the exit slip road at Junction 1 to its junction with the M6 at Junction 8.
(2) the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1.

The work will be carried out over one night between 22:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 7 March 2016 and continue for 5 nights. The Order will come into force on 29 February 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade, ambulance or traffic officer purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures.

A diversion route via A41, A4031, A4041, A34 and M6 Junction 7 will be signed.

For further information please contact Matthew Taylor on 0121 687 2550.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 3 TO JUNCTION 9) (SLIP ROADS)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the Counties of Worcestershire and Gloucestershire and in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell to allow litter picking and general maintenance works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, at different times:
a) the slip road leading to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3;
b) the slip road leading from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 3;
c) the slip roads leading to and from the M5 at Junctions 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8;
d) the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 9; and
e) the slip road leading to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 9.

The work will be carried out overnight between 22:00 hours and 05:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 22 February 2016 and continue for two weeks. The Order will come into force on 15 February 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works or by a traffic officer will be exempt from the closures. Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M5 will be signed.

For further information please contact Matthew Taylor on 0121 687 4099.

Karen Eustace, an Officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE M5 MOTORWAY (JUNCTIONS 1 AND 2) (SLIP ROADS)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an Order on the M5 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell, to allow lighting column inspection works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading:
i) from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1;
ii) to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1;
iii) from the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1;
iv) to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 1;
v) from the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2;
vi) to the northbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2;
vii) from the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2; and
viii) to the southbound carriageway of the M5 at Junction 2.

The work will be carried out overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 22 February 2016 and continue for 9 nights. The Order will come into force on 15 February 2016.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works, or by a traffic officer, will be exempt from the closures.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M5 and M6 Junction 7 will be signed.

For further information please contact Leonard Murray on 0121 678 8408.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited.

Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A Company registered in England and Wales.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58839	Hallbridge Way Properties Ltd	SGS House 1 Johns Lane Oldbury B69 3HX	Proposed change of use from offices and car park to bus park with bus wash and ancillary offices (including partial demolition of offices).

This is a major application.

DC/16/59067	Hammerson (Oldbury) Limited	Land Bounded By Bromford Road, West Bromwich Street, Fountain Lane, Oldbury	Erection of a phased retail (Class A1) development, with three associated food and beverage units (Class A1 shops, A3 restaurants and cafes, A5 hot food takeaways), a 555 space customer car park, and new signal controlled junction to Bromford Road, alongside various public realm improvement works, servicing, soft landscaping, and enhanced pedestrian linkages.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE (between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Park Hill, Wednesbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Park Hill, Wednesbury from the junction with Tame Avenue to Devon Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 15/02/16, effective from 15/02/16. Traffic will be diverted via Coronation Road, Gloucester Road, Crankhall Lane, Woden Road East and vice-versa. Purpose – repair works to a sunken manhole cover.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Popes Lane & Tat Bank Road, Oldbury) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Popes Lane, Oldbury from its junction with Tat Bank Road. Traffic will be diverted via Tat Bank Road and Parsonage Street. Following completion of these works any vehicles will then be prohibited from travelling along Tat Bank Road from its junction with Engine Street to Western Road. Traffic will be diverted via Tat Bank Road, Rood End Road, Popes Lane and vice-versa. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 10/04/16, effective from 15/02/16. Purpose – works to water main.

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Cradley Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Cradley Road, Cradley Heath between Graingers Lane and Station Street. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 21/02/15, effective from 13/02/15. Traffic will be diverted via Station Street, Graingers Lane and vice-versa. Purpose – works to gas main.

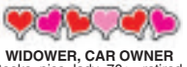
SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Valley Road, Cradley Heath) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2016, has made an Order to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Valley Road, Cradley Heath from its junction with Barrs Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 24/02/16, effective from 15/02/16. Traffic will be diverted via Norwood Avenue, Timbertree Crescent, Corngreaves Road, Barrs Road and vice-versa. Purpose – removal of speed table and carriageway surfacing works.

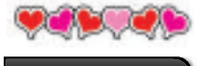
10 Personals

personal

A BRITISH INDIAN MALE
Would like to meet a woman, slim build for days in and out, wine bars etc.
If interested please post letter to:
Box Number P20219 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



WIDOWER, CAR OWNER
Seeks nice lady 70+, retired, honest, slim/medium, to enjoy the rest of our lives together. Companionship and relationship, evenings in, meals out and holidays.
Penkridge / surrounding areas.
Box Number P20221 ,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.



general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

WANTED GARAGE to let, any area considered.
07895 013770.

sports clubs

TIPTON YOUTH F.C. UNDER 10's
Looking to recruit experienced new players for next season.
If you are interested in a trial please contact:
Lee for more details.
07878 273276

DO YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW SUFFER FROM BREAST CANCER OR ANY OTHER FEMALE CANCER?
Would you be interested in well being event or would you be interested in Pink Breast Cancer Pin for Charity?
Call for information
07748 014054

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL
01902 317878

Express & Star DATING

YOUR regional dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. *REAL people in YOUR region*

Try it.. You'll love it!

Dates in *YOUR* region

Here's how to use your dating service ...

To ***Place*** your advert call:
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and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text
Simply text **NEG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**. **FREE** Standard Network rates apply.

YOU can now ***Date ONLINE*** or via your mobile just visit:
http://dating.expressandstar.com

To ***Reply*** to members call:
0906 500 3955
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** by text:
Text.. **REPLY26** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26** 123456 ***hi get in touch...***, then send to **80098**. Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for yr safety and security.

Been left a message? ***Pickup*** your replies on:
0906 500 3957
calls cost £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge.

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you.. visit..*** **http://dating.expressandstar.com**

Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

48 year old, slim, green eyed female, n/s, likes meals out, local theatre, live local bands, nights in, looking for a gentleman, 48-52, for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420839**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673**

FEMALE, 37, new to area, would like to meet nice trustworthy man, for friendship hopefully more. **Text only to mailbox: 5392585**

DISCREET man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 3007 Box 418167**

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420791**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715**

CAROL 37 attractive slim blonde, curves in all the right places, nice personality, good company, looking for caring man for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420757**

LUCY first time advertiser, 32yrs, tall slim blonde airline worker, seeks discreet gent, any status for casual fling. Looks/age unimportant. **Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box: 420237**

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420729**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399**

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420715**

SALLY, 24yrs tall brunette with feminine curves seeks mature older chap, 35+ for discreet fun only, must be experienced. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box: 420247**

SUE, 46, confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420701**

ROSIE, 43yrs, bored and lonely, I don't get out much but would like to meet a nice chap, married or single, fun only pls. **Text only Box 4078225**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, slim attractive blonde, varied interests and solvent, WLTM honest male of any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420685**

JENNI, hairdresser, brunette, caring and fun. WLTM chap any age, must be discreet with car, I have a nice home to meet in. **Text only Box: 4139156**

CHRIS, 67, brunette, cuddly, WLTM caring, kind gentleman, for days out, meals out, walks etc and for just being together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420667**

KAREN, curvy brunette, 42yrs loves men of all ages and sizes but must make me laugh .I am married with open marriage. **Text only Box: 4020257**

LILY, genuine lady looking for a genuine man. I like cosy nights in and am a smoker. **Text only mailbox no: 5372466**

TRISH, 44, tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420601**

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a real lust for life, seeks big-hearted stocky male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420599**

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420563**

CHRIS, 40, attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420491**

SALLY, 46, slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420475**

LOUISE, 47, youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420445**

ALEXA 49 - slim, attractive, long-haired music loving female, with many interests including dining out, the arts, photography WLTM similar male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5345662**

YVONNE, single mum, happy with life, but would like to meet someone to share fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420269**

CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420359**

JULIE, 47, blonde brown eyes, size 12, varied interests, loves cuddling, kissing and showing affection, seeks similar energetic male friend for TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420357**

ANN,38, very attractive female, N/S, positive attitude to life, WLTM similar kind male with a lot of get up and go for romance and fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420355**

JACKIE lonely and looking for male company, 48-65. Need a bit of love and affection? Then I'm your girl. call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418169**

SARAH, curvaceous brunette, 35, passionate nature, solvent, OHAC, WLTM date again, looking for male to take me out. Looks/Age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420207**

LYN, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLTM similar male for companionship.
Age/looks/Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795**

JANE, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985**

SUSANNAH, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341**

KELLY young attractive vivacious 49yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420195**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420175**

TARA 22 tall slim but curvy with legs that go all the way up to heaven, WLTM very appreciative confident male for adult fun. Contact me anytime. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 414701**

FEMALE, dark haired 5'10, curvy, likes reading, walking, cinema, seeks male 40-50 for lasting relationship. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5077545**

PROFESSIONAL black female age 52, enjoys evenings and days out, would like to meet similar Midlands male. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5315901**

CATHY, 42, good looking brunette with a real passion for life, seeking male for happy times, dates, chats, romance and more. Pls call. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420073**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

MAGGIE, 72 yrs young, good sense of humour, well presented, WLTM kind, sincere chappie to share coffee and a chat. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5310040**

LOUISE 35, dark hair, blue eyes, attractive ex air hostess, looking for fun times with older male for romantic nights in and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420043**

39 yr old independent single Mom, knows the benefit of having a good man in the picture. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5084796**

FRANCES, 45, busty female, loves nights in/out, seeking uncomplicated male who can occupy my free time for quality companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420003**

FEMALE, seeks fun loving male who likes a drink and a laugh, to enjoy erotic experiences with a curvy brunette. Discretion guaranteed. **Text only to Mailbox no: 5079311**

MARY, pretty, friendly, lots of fun, lives in Kidderminster, loves the theatre, opera, ballet, WLTM a lovely, charming, funny, genuine guy, 30s, to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419883**

Single Men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

WAYNE, 40, cheeky, good career, likes gym. Looking for a lady who likes stimulating conversation and times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419829**

DARREN, 44, slim build, dark brown hair, green eyes, seeks genuine female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418809**

WALSALL male looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873**

STEVE 58 yrs, 6ft, average build, seeking woman for NSA mutual pleasure, marital status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5400701YOUNG** at heart lonely 55yr old male, 5ft 10, medium build, n/s, GSOH, loyal, looking for a female for adult fun time, possible LTR. **Text only to mailbox: 5321154**

STEVEN, 39, caring and clean, looking for female for fun, laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420861**

MALE, 46, slim, WLTM a lady to settle me down, if that's you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420853**

62yr old professional male seeks female 55-70, curvy and feminine, for fun, laughter and relationship. **Text only to mailbox: 4435871**

TREVOR 45, likes cinema, going out, some quiet nights in and looking for someone with similar interests. **Text only to mailbox: 5392042**

COLIN 48, loving, kind, seeks loving kind caring cuddly lady 48 to 54 for LTR, love and romance. **Text only to mailbox: 5308886**

MALE 51, seeks lady to spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313191**

MARK, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTM a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841**

MALE 55, stocky, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407741**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

TOBY, looking for a responsible lady, 30-50, sensible with money, loving, passionate, romantic, single mum of one welcome. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420813**

MALE 45yrs old, self-employed motor trader/mechanic, medium build, green eyes, average looks. I am a nice genuine and honest person looking for similar lady to share a honest permanent relationship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418709**

MALE, 59, 5ft2, average build, seeks genuine, caring, lady, 55-65. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420721**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

HANDSOME, attractive, fit, Indian, professional trucker, 38, WLTM attractive, honest, caring lady/mum, 31-45 for LTR. Colour unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 219790**

ATTRACTIVE male 56 seeks dom female 40 to 70 for close adult fun, any status or size. **Text only to mailbox: 4347071**

MATURE male, 6ft, slim, fit, clean and smart, residing in central Birmingham, seeks slimish female for fun times. **Text only to mailbox: 5383053**

MAN 55yrs, 6ft med build, single, looking for a special lady to share no strings fun and good times Age/status unimportant. **Text only to mailbox: 5381487**

KALU 26 years old single dark/black good looking man looking for a good-looking women for sexy fun. **Text only to mailbox: 5383533**

ATTRACTIVE British Indian male, 38, seeks slim, attractive, caring female for friendship, hopefully LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 227154**

ASIAN male, 38, good looking, fit, loving, caring, GSOH, WLTM Asian female, 40-55 for friendship, possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 235383**

SEXY Indian male, 40, dark hair/eyes, fit, seeks fit, sporty, sexy, romantic female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 301791**

HANDSOME Indian male, 41, tactile, romantic, likes meals out, days out, walks, nights in, seeks sensitive, intelligent Indian female, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 322561**

FIT, handsome, Indian male, 40, GSOH, seeks Asian lady, 33-43 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 365160**

ATTRACTIVE professional, Asian male, 43, kind, caring, likes travel, romance, dining, seeks attractive lady, 35-50 for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 370823**

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239**

SLIM attractive man WLTM caring lady, 40-58, for friendship, reply and claim free hug. **Text only mailbox no: 4172082**

BLACK male early 40's, slim, looking for casual adult weekend fun with broadminded, easy going discreet female. **Text only mailbox no: 4656899**

CHRIS, male, 47, single, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks female between 25 and 45 for fun and maybe more. Please get in touch. **Text only mailbox no: 5352046**

COLIN 48, kind, caring, loving, seeks kind, caring, loving, cuddly large lady, 40 to 55 for LTR **Text only mailbox no: 5308886**

http://dating.expressandstar.com

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Tony Lister – probably the most experienced salesman in the country

How many people do you know who can honestly tell you that they've worked for over 65 years, with no gaps in employment? Well, 82-year-old Tony Lister at Dudley Motor Company has quite a few stories to tell after nearly 67 years of service as a car salesman.

Yes, that's a whopping 67 years of employment within the local vehicle retailing sector, and he's loved almost every bit of it.

What's more, he's never strayed from Vauxhall during all that time.

Now, after what must be a record, at least in this country, and possibly anywhere in the world, Tony is preparing to step down from the business of selling vehicles after nearly 70 years of service.

He's focused on selling Vauxhalls and Bedford vans and trucks for much of his life. While the Bedford name was dropped in 1991, Vauxhall remains the UK's largest manufacturer of vans today.

Reputation

Tony first joined Ryland Motors in Birmingham in 1949 at the tender age of 15. And there he stayed for 34 years, working up the ranks to eventually managing three sites for the company, including Old Hill Motors, which while owned by Ryland Motors, held the franchise for Austin, Morris and Rover.

Tony says: "I joined Ryland Motors just under four years after the end of the Second World War, and the first car I sold was an F Model Victor.

"I believe it was finished in silver blue paint. Unfortunately it had a reputation for aging quite quickly with rust being a real problem.

"It looked good when new and featured American styling so it really stood out from the crowd of quite dull designs at the time."

Joining Dudley Motor Company, Tony found that many of his customers followed him and he's still selling cars to those same loyal people and their families to this day, including their children and grandchildren.

He became the dealership's Accredited Motability Specialist in 1982 after the Vauxhall Area sales manager insisted that he do so, and it's a role that he really loves.

It's also pretty obvious that Tony' customers love dealing with him, too. His friendly demeanour and pleasant personality ensures that he's extremely popular with all customers and staff.

Generation

Over the years Tony has seen so many Vauxhall models come and go.

From that original F Model and original Vivas, the Victor, VX490, the Chevette of the 1970's right through to the latest generation British-built Astra, Tony has seen and sold them all.

Indeed, he's sold thousands of vehicles over the past 67 years, and his knowledge and experience of the Vauxhall brand and its many products down the years just cannot be matched.

"Of course, many things have changed within the motor industry," said Tony. "With all the technology featured in vehicles today, even in the smallest of city cars such as the Vauxhall ADAM, the industry has been completely transformed.

"Cars are much more reliable and gaps between services have widened hugely."

Tony's philosophy over more than six decades is to talk to people, get to know them properly in order to create a bond of trust.

It's certainly worked well for him, and Dudley Motors, as he enjoys a considerable loyalty from customers which then brings in a lot of repeat business.

But at the age of 82 Tony is surely entitled to take things a little easier, but he and the team at Dudley Motors are very keen to stay in touch.

So there's every likelihood that he'll be a regular visitor to the showroom, dropping into join his friends for a cuppa!

DUDLEY MOTOR COMPANY
A family owned Vauxhall dealer based in Dudley serving the West Midlands
01384454100

CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK * CARS OF THE WEEK

2012 Citroen Nemo 1.3 HDi LX 5 doors, white, diesel, 42,732 miles **£4,850 +VAT**

2007 Chrysler Crossfire 3.2 V6 2dr 2 doors, Auto, Convertible, Petrol, Blue, 62,656 miles **£6,995**

2012 Mini Clubman 1.6 One D 5 door, Diesel, Estate, Manual, Silver, 28,000 miles **£8,995**

Vauxhall Adam Selection

2013/13 **VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4** 3 door, White, 10,175 miles £7295
2013/13 **VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS** JAM Red, 8,654 miles £7295
2013/63 **VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS** SLAM 3 door, Yellow, 7,450 miles. £7995
2014/14 **VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 70PS** JAM Arden Blue, 3,656 miles £8695
2014/64 **VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2i GLAM** 3 door, PANORAMIC ROOF White, low mileage £9495

Vauxhall Antara Selection

2007/07 **VAUXHALL ANTARA 4X4 AUTOMATIC** Grey, 70,000 miles £6995
2012/61 **VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.4i 16V 167PS EXCLUSIV** 5 door, Black, 38,697 miles £9350
2012/12 **VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 EXCLUSIVE CDTi** 5 door, White, 30,000 miles £9995
2012/12 **VAUXHALL ANTARA 2.2 CDTi SE NAV AU** 5 door, Grey, 39,245 miles £11995

Vauxhall Astra Selection

2007/57 **VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.8 AUTOMATIC** 26,000 miles, Beige £3695
2007/07 **VAUXHALL ASTRA SXI SPORT HATCH 1.6** 3 door, Grey, 47,000 miles £3995
2007/07 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DIESEL ENERGY** Grey, 44,000 miles £4350
2007/07 **VAUXHALL ASTRA TWIN TOP DESIGN** 48,000 miles, Red £4995
2007/07 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi TWINPORT** 5 door, Black, 36,902 miles £4995
2010/60 **VAUXHALL ASTRA SRI 1.7 DIESEL SRI** Black, 70,000 miles £6495
2010/60 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI** 5 door, Grey, 54,000 miles £6495
2010/60 **VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4i ESTATE** grey 50,000 miles £6650
2011/61 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 EXCITE** 5 door, Silver 23,000 miles £7495
2012/12 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0 CDTi SRi** 5 door, White, 43,000 miles £7995
2012/62 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE** 5 door, White, 22,000 miles. £8495
2012/62 **VAUXHALL ASTRA ELITE 1.7 CDTi ECOFLEX** White, 34,000 miles £8995
2012/62 **VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 1.7** 3 door, Red, 17,291 miles £9650
2015/15 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SRi** 5 door, choice of colours and engines available, 15,000 miles £10995
2014/64 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 DESIGN CDTi ECOFLEX** 5 door, Silver, 7,316 miles £10995
2015/15 **VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i 16V SRi** 5 door, choice of colours and engines available, 15,000 miles £10995
2013/13 **VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 2.0 CDTi SRi** 19" Alloys, White, 15,000 miles £11495
2015/64 **VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4 T** Yellow, 10,000 miles £11595
2014/64 **VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC SPORT 2.0 CDTi** S/S White, 8,759 miles £12250

Vauxhall Corsa Selection

2004/04 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 SXi** 5 door, Red, 39,000 miles £2995
2012/12 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 ACTIVE** 45,000 miles £6495
2014/63 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN AUTOMATIC** Grey, 21,000 miles £7495
2012/12 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 LIMITED EDITION** 3 door, White, 20,195 miles £7995
2015/64 **VAUXHALL CORSA SXI** 3 door Grey only 3000 miles £7995
2014/14 **VAUXHALL CORSA LIMITED EDITION** 3 door, White, 11,400 miles £8995
2010/10 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.6 VXR** 3 door, Blue, 26,908 miles £9495
2015/15 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE AUTOMATIC** 5 door, Black, 13,332 miles £10995
2015/15 **VAUXHALL CORSA SRi 1.4** 3 door, White, 4,000 miles £10995
2014/64 **VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 TURBO** 3 door, Silver, 4,338 miles £11495

Vauxhall Insignia Selection

2012/12 **VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8 EXCLUSIV** 43,000 miles, Silver £7450
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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, February 11, 2016

Engaging experience in pretty crossover

By Sharon Walters

It's more than two years since a piece of Peugeot wizardry first impressed me. That was when the company invited motoring writers to drive up and down the ski slope at Tamworth Snowdome in a 2008 to test its Grip Control – a system already in use on other models in the Peugeot stable.

Now this small crossover isn't 4x4 and can't tackle major off-road conditions but it can cope with the majority falls of snow we usually experience with Grip Control.

In Tamworth Grip Control easily coped with the snowy slopes – take a look at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jTVPxHX1jZo&feature=youtu.be to see for yourself.

However, taking part in a demonstration is all very well. The system is shown to you by skilled drivers and then you take the wheel for yourself. All in a relatively controlled situation. When you have to use the system in the 'real' world it can be an entirely different matter. But that was not the case when an overnight fall of snow in Scotland left my car at the top of a car park with a steep slope exiting onto the highway. Into Snow Mode on Grip Control and I floated out in perfect control unlike a number of other people who went before and slipped and slithered down on to the road.

And here's how it works. The system works with the electronic stability programme to maintain the best possible traction from both front wheels. There are five operating modes on a control mounted down by the gear lever. In Standard mode, the vehicle's ESP system is calibrated for typical grip levels found on normal road surfaces, where there are low levels of wheel slip. Snow mode adapts the system to gain the best traction from each of the front wheels when the car is pulling away. As the car increases speed, the system constantly tweaks the traction control to maintain acceleration in the face of variable grip conditions. The system returns to Standard mode once you are over 31 mph.

All-terrain mode copes with mud, dirt tracks and wet grass by allowing a high level of slip on the least stable wheel when pulling away to remove excess mud and improve grip. At the same time, the wheel with the strongest grip level is given as much torque as possible. As the system is electronically controlled the torque offset between the front wheels can be as much as 100 per cent, well beyond normal limits for a limited slip differential. As the car gains speed, the system continually optimises wheel slip to give the driver the best possible control over the vehicle up to 50 mph. And this was also put to use on the Scottish trip on a foray up a couple of rough tracks to park close to the Highland Way in preparation for checking out my own grip control in a walk after heavy rain!

Sand mode allows slight wheel slip on both drive wheels simultaneously, to allow the vehicle to make headway and reduce the risk of getting stuck in the sand. Here again, the control provided by this mode is superior to that of a limited slip differential. In this mode, Standard mode kicks in automatically above a speed of 75 mph. Sadly no trips to the glorious west coast to test this mode. The result of this mode is a great all-round ability on all sorts of terrain as well as good towing and carrying for outdoor activities

Peugeot has targeted the 2008 at young city-dwellers who love the urban environment, but also enjoy escaping it. I also think it is very attractive to people of more mature years! There's a choice of the latest generation of efficient Peugeot BlueHDi diesel and award-winning, 'Engine of the Year' three-cylinder PureTech petrol engines. CO2 emissions are as low as 95g/km, while combined cycle fuel economy is as high as 78.5mpg.

You also get an engaging driving experience, high levels of equipment, comfort and high quality in materials and finish with a choice of eight interior trims.

The spacious and flexible cabin has a cockpit-style instrument panel and aircraft-type handbrake with a smart satin chrome finish on the air vents, handbrake lever, steering wheel, gear lever and touch-screen trims.

Fold the 60:40 split rear bench and you increase the boot space from 360 to 1,194 litres and a completely flat load area. And all it takes to create that space is one press of the button at the top of the rear seat back to fold the seat, as the seat cushion retracts automatically. A wide tailgate and low loading lip – makes it easy to load and unload. There's also storage space under the boot floor around the spare wheel.

On the safety front there's a raft of active and passive equipment which has earned the 2008 a five-star Euro NCAP crash test rating.

Priced from just £13,195, the Peugeot 2008 is available to buy using the brand's 'Just Add FuelTM' finance package. Combining all motoring costs into a single monthly payment, the Peugeot 2008 Active PureTech 1.2-litre 82bhp is available for £199pcm, over 36 months, following a deposit of £2,080 (4.9% APR).

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Gordon plays weighting game

West Bromwich fighter Matt Gordon

WEST Bromwich's Matt Gordon is dealing with an unfamiliar weight problem for professional boxers coming up to fight night – he's struggling to put enough of it on!

Gordon, aged 31, undertakes his third outing in the heavyweight division at Walsall Town Hall next Friday. But having gone past his desired target, Gordon now plans to pile on the weight by piling high his plate before gobbling up a hat-trick of paid victories.

Extensive work with his fitness coach Mark Richards and former pro footballer Justin Richards, now playing at part-timers Stourbridge, have paid off more than ever.

Former Mixed Martial Arts fighter Lukas Horak will have to match his hunger.

Gordon said: "I like to be around 16-and-a-half stone to fight, but I've been coming in just above 16st in my fights so far. I've been losing weight because I've upped the training, so I've had to up the calories, too." Top of the bill will see Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, 24, get back into title contention against Richard Horton.

The 'Undefeated' bill, promoted by Errol Johnson's Black Country Boxing and Hatton, has eight unbeaten fighters on the card.

Hatton will lead Wednesbury's Sam Evans, Pauly Upton, Reuben Arrowsmith and Nathan Gorman into battle. Gordon's Sandwell cohort Manny Zaber, from Old Hill, tackles Liam Richards. Stoke's Kieron McLaren completes the card at welterweight.

Belt up – four titles on line in Sam bout

FOUR belts could be on the line when Stourbridge's Sam Eggington takes top billing against Bradley Skeete in Birmingham next month.

It was announced in mid-January that Eggington will take on Skeete in the headliner at the Genting Arena on Saturday March 5, **writes Craig Birch**.

'The Savage' defends his British and Commonwealth welterweight titles against his mandatory challenger, on a Matchroom Boxing show live on Sky Sports.

And Eggington's WBC International Silver belt, along with Skeete's WBO European crown, could also be put up-for-grabs.

The contest will cross the promoters' divide, as Londoner Skeete, managed by Frank Warren, competes on a Matchroom show after Eddie Hearn won the purse bids.

It will now also be put to the British Boxing Board of Control that the WBC and WBO straps be involved in the bout, which was actually called for by Warren's representative Andy Ayling.

Eggington is aware the prospect of a Lonsdale belt fight against Frankie Gavin later in the year is also being risked. The 21-year-old said: "Bradley's not daft, he's a hard opponent, but I can't see him lasting the distance with me.

Mandatory

"He'll have to work hard for everything he gets against me. If I do what I need to, I will come out with the win and that will be my mandatory out of the way. After that, I want to go and win the belt outright."

Skeete's only pro defeat came at the hands of Gavin in November 2014, when both were under the Warren banner.

He said: "These are the fights I want to be in, at these big arenas headlining. I've come up short before, but I won't this time."

Essington's Ben Wilkes will undertake his step up elsewhere on the card and is the underdog against the all-action Cello Renda, in an eliminator for the English middleweight title.

Wilkes has nine wins from 10 from what has been a stop-start pro career since turning pro in 2009, and he's adamant he's got the skills to upset the form book. He said: "It's a big opportunity for me and he's going to get a shock."

Sam Eggington and challenger Bradley Skeete face up to their challenge in Birmingham

The 29-year-old spent nearly five years out of the ring after a third round TKO defeat to Janis Cernauskis.

Another major domestic title fight and two clashes for Midlands belts also appear, with both Yafai brothers in action. British champion Kal will tackle Moises Flores in an official 12-round eliminator for Kohei Kono's WBA super flyweight title. Younger sibling Gamal goes after his first domestic crown, challenging for Bobby Jenkinson's newly-won Commonwealth super bantamweight strap. A Battle of Birmingham will come at lightweight, as Michael Rooney and Marcus Ffrench meet for the vacant strap, while new Midlands titlist Karl Wiggins defends at welter for the first time against Derby's Ryan Fields.

Tickets are priced at £40, £60 and £100 from www.theticketfactory.com. VIP upgrades, at £150, can be bought exclusively at www.matchroomboxing.com

Win nets girls a place in final of nationals

A SANDWELL school has netted a top sports title.

George Salter's under-16s netball team claimed the West Midlands Regional Schools tournament at Bromsgrove School.

Some 19 teams from across the region battled it out for two places in the National Schools final.

George Salter have qualified for the national finals in the last two years as regional runners-up, so were one of the favourites and were determined to go one better.

They got off to an excellent start with a 15-2 victory over John Fisher, then beat Kings Worcester 11-1.

Next up was Tudor Grange who, like George Salter, have many regional academy players. George Salter prevailed 14-6, followed by convincing wins over King Edwards Birmingham, Hereford and Church Stretton.

Bishop Walsh were the opposition in the semi-final and 12-6 win took George Salter into the final against Tudor Grange, who they beat 17-7 in a game overseen by international umpire Ian Fuller.

A school spokesman said: "The players, parents, coaches and staff were delighted with the victory and accolade as the best under-16 school in the West Midlands – a title that the girls have worked so hard for the last few years."

The national finals will take place in Brighton on Saturday, March 19.

The winning squad comprised Grace Porter-Deleon, captain, Ellie Bennett, vice-captain, Nasara Arnett, Shanequa McLeish, Tumba Katanda, Daisey Cotterill, Calista Henry, Rhea Patel and Nikita Samra

Still chance to net tickets for Davis Cup tie

BIRMINGHAM'S Barclaycard Arena is finalising last minute plans for the so-called World Cup of Tennis, the Davis Cup.

The GB team will be returning to start the defence of the title against Japan in the World Group first round, from March 4-6.

This will be the first meeting between Great Britain and Japan since 1931.

Phil Mead, managing director of the Barclaycard Arena said: "It is with great pleasure we welcome Leon Smith and his side to the Barclaycard Arena.

"Our events and sales teams are working closely alongside The International Tennis Federation to deliver an exceptional opening round."

Tickets can still be bought at www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Claims over Berahino Spurs deal unfounded

CLAIMS that Tottenham will be given first refusal on Albion striker Saido Berahino in the summer appear to be unfounded.

January's deadline day loan deal for midfielder Alex Pritchard sparked speculation that Albion chairman Jeremy Peace and his Spurs counterpart Daniel Levy had shook on a gentleman's agreement that Berahino could join the north London club in the summer.

Spurs didn't make a bid for the 22-year-old in January even though he was their main target last summer, and Peace took Berahino off the market to all other interested clubs. But The Chronicle's sister publication the Express & Star understands nothing has been agreed.

Meanwhile, boss Tony Pulis admitted Berahino looks bulkier because he's been lifting weights in his own time.

On the pitch, the striker's wait for a Premier League start has entered a fourth month. He looks physically larger than he did last season, and Pulis still doesn't think last season's top scorer is fit enough to start.

"He's been doing loads of body weights and things like that so he looks a little bit bigger. He's definitely stronger than he was before he went out of the team," said Pulis.

"He's missed a lot of games obviously. He's missed half of the season.

"We're desperate to get him back involved to play games and to be part of the team.

"We're hoping that he might get some his sharpness back that we need in front of goal. We 've got to be hitting the target more."

Unwelcome Guest denies Tivi a victory

Goole AFC 2 Tividale FC2

TIVIDALE, having lost two experienced players in midweek, returned from the long trip to Goole with a share of the spoils – after conceding a last-gasp equaliser.

Defender Sam Brooks and forward Mark Danks left for Sutton Coldfield and Romulus respectively. Tivi were also without suspended full back Lewis Wright, but came up with a dogged performance and were seconds away from winning.

Against the run of play Tividale took the lead on 18 minutes through Demetri Brown.

The home side equalised on 22 through Aaron Moxam, but with seven minutes to go Tividale regained the lead through Chris Sterling. Deep into added time Goole snatched a point as Nick Guest levelled.

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Girls net a place in national finals
Page 47

Belting up with titles on line
Page 47

Pritchard in 'best yet to come' vow

NEW boy Alex Pritchard says Albion fans haven't seen his best despite him being the bright spot in an otherwise dreadful defeat at Newcastle United.

The Albion performance was labelled the 'worst' away performance in his time as boss by Tony Pulis.

But 22-year-old winger Pritchard, on loan from Spurs, looked lively after coming on for Craig Gardner at half-time, adding some much-needed quality to a desperate Albion team.

It wasn't enough to rescue anything from the game, but his performance was a small beacon of hope on a depressing day in the north east. "The gaffer told me to get on the ball, get forward and get positive," said Pritchard. "I had a go and tried to be positive but it didn't happen for us.

"Coming on you need to support your strikers, you don't want them to be on their own. I think that's what I can do for the team.

"The lads have been good to me but people didn't see my best on Saturday, even though it was good to make my debut."

Pritchard is highly-rated at Spurs, but an ankle injury at the start of the season has ruled him out until now.

"It's been a while since I played and on Saturday I didn't feel out of sorts," he said. "I did feel comfortable out there with my fitness which was a big positive for me."

Albion never got a grip on the game at St James's Park, and Pulis was 'livid' with the rest of his team.

Albion have won just one game out of the last eight, and Saturday's defeat drags them to within six points of the bottom three.

"I don't think anybody in the bottom half of the table will think they're safe," said Pulis.

Old boy Sneekes past Baggies for Senior Cup success

Rushall Olympic 2 Albion 0

FORMER Baggies favourite Richard Sneekes put one over his old club as he masterminded this Birmingham Senior Cup victory.

A week after beating a youthful Stoke City outfit in the Staffs Senior Cup, Olympic made it two wins in two against Premier League opposition at Dales Lane.

Sneekes' side are still unbeaten in 2016, and this win takes them into the quarter-finals of the competition.

Zak Martin had the ball in the net for the Pics with a superbly finished volley at the back post but the effort was ruled out by the linesman's flag.

A James Smith effort for Albion was also ruled out thanks to the linesman's flag before the hosts took the lead in the 57th minute when Josh McKenzie fired the ball across goal and Gavin Caines was there to tap home from close range.

Ten minutes later, the home side doubled their advantage, making sure of the win, as the impressive Reid burst through the middle of the Baggies' defence and fired in past Palmer.

Leko building up hopes for the future

Jonathan Leko in action for England under-17s

HOPES are high of success for Albion Academy graduate Jonathan Leko. The 16-year-old winger was recalled from the England under-17s to feature among the first team squad for last night's (Wednesday) FA Cup replay at Peterborough.

The youngster has already made his first-team debut this season, coming off the bench against Norwich in the Capital One Cup. And, after scoring a handful of goals for the youth teams, his performances have caught the eye of Tony Pulis.

"I'm really enjoying being around the first team," said Leko. "I would love to get some game time but I'm just enjoying developing right now."

Football

Both Leko and Albion midfielder Rahis Nabi have been in Portugal to play in the Algarve Tournament. Both started in a 1-1 draw against the hosts before coming off the bench in a 2-2 draw with Germany.

Leko returned early to help plug a gap in Albion's injury-hit squad and he hopes to capitalise on the the first professional contract handed to 17-year-old Tyler Roberts.

"He's (Pulis) said to me if I work hard and keep up my ability then I should have a good chance."

ALBION MUST ARREST SLIDE

Newcastle 1 Albion 0

AT the final whistle Tony Pulis was probably pleased only 1,250 Albion fans witnessed such a dreadful performance.

For the third time in the last four Premier League matches, the Baggies failed to register a shot on target. Two out of those three games have been against teams in the bottom three.

Pulis himself admitted it was the worst he'd seen his Baggies team play away from home since he took over more than a year ago. "I am livid," he said afterwards.

Those die-hard fans who made the seven-hour round trip to the North East were no doubt just as furious.

Albion have won just one game out of the last eight, and that victory was a scrape past managerless Championship strugglers Bristol City in an FA Cup replay.

Pulis's unadventurous tactics can only be stomached when the results prove there are reasons to play them.

But the Baggies are in a dangerous slide towards the bottom three that needs to be arrested swiftly.

Controlled

There are, of course, a few caveats to all this.

Pulis was given no money to spend in January, while Newcastle forked out £24million on Jonjo Shelvey – who controlled the game at St James' Park – and Andros Townsend, who hit the post and looked dangerous down the left wing.

Albion had Jonny Evans, Chris Brunt, Callum McManaman and James Morrison out, while Salomon Rondon and Stephane Sessegnon reportedly picked up knocks just before the game.

A few weeks ago these could have been believable explanations for a one-off, but the regularity of these poor performances mean now they just feel like excuses.

Alex Pritchard's debut as a half-time sub was the only highlight for the visiting side, and the diminutive Spurs loanee added energy, quality and inventiveness to a formulaic team far too content with hitting long balls up to Victor Anichebe – isolated up fron on his own – or trying to put crosses in via Craig Dawson or James McClean. Saido Berahino, another second half substitution, had one half-chance in the second half, but his stabbed effort goalwards was blocked by Stephen Taylor.

There may be some truth in Pulis's assertion that he's not yet fit enough for the Premier League.

While Leicester are being rightly praised for their tremendous team spirit, at Albion, it's falling apart.

Claudio Yacob and James McClean rounded on each other towards the end, Berahino looked furious when Pulis took him off a free-kick in favour of Pritchard, and Anichebe's body language got worse as the game wore on. The manager, who has famously never been relegated, needs to repair those rifts if he's going to keep that record.

The next five league games are against Everton, Crystal Palace, Leicester, Manchester United, and Arsenal.

Even if he does keep the team up, Pulis needs to change his approach on the pitch before things become terminal.

It's still unlikely that Norwich, Sunderland or Villa are good enough to catch the Baggies, but whether the fans will put up with this football for another season remains to be seen.

Albion's Craig Dawson gives away a free-kick against Rolando Aarons

Squad is too good to go down – Brunt

STALWART Chris Brunt reckons Albion are in no danger of being relegated, provided they can stop picking up injuries.

Brunt was set to miss last night's (Wednesday) FA Cup fourth round replay against Peterborough, but is expected to return from his calf injury in time to play Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday.

"We've got a decent enough squad and if we can get everybody fit and out on the pitch, we'll be okay this season," said Brunt.

Albion are currently six points above the drop zone and have failed to win any of their last five Premier League games.

While other teams around them strengthened in the transfer window, Albion brought in only two loan signings, Alex Pritchard and Sandro.

Baggies chairman Jeremy Peace regards the January transfer window as a rotten market and dislikes doing any business in it.

"January and August is always a difficult period for every club," said Brunt. "January especially, because you're either buying to try and win something or you're buying to try and stay in the league.

"As a club, we've never been ones for throwing a lot of money around in January. Touch wood, it's always been okay."

Meanwhile, director of football administration Richard Garlick believes there is a 'win-win' scenario on the horizon of the Saido Berahino transfer saga.

Garlick echoed the chairman's view that January is a poor time for trading and he doesn't believe Berahino's value will have dropped by the summer.

Garlick said: "His goals could be crucial in ensuring we finish as high up the table as we possibly can... I'm confident there is a win-win scenario for everybody."

Club duo among top hard workers

TWO Albion players are among the top five hardest-working players in the Premier League, according to the latest stats.

Craig Dawson is third in the list for most distance covered so far this season, running a total of 278.57km, while skipper Darren Fletcher is fifth, with 271.56km.

Only Everton's Gareth Barry (297.64km) and Bournemouth's Andrew Surman (303.85km) have ran further than Dawson according to statistics gathered by EA Sports Player Performance Index.

★★★

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